



THE SECRET HISTORY

BY EDDIE ROBSON

THE FIFTH DOCTOR: PETER DAVISON

Time traveller.

VICKI: MAUREEN O'BRIEN

Time traveller's companion – a space orphan.

STEVEN: PETER PURVES

Time traveller's companion – a space pilot.

THE MONK: GRAEME GARDEN

Time meddler.

BELISARIUS (bellySAARIus):

General of the Byzantine army. 41 years old.

PROCOPIUS (proCOPEius):

Belisarius' secretary. 40 years old.

SOPHIA (soFEEuh):

Young Greek woman. Time-sensitive half-human.

JUSTINIAN:

Roman Emperor. 48 years old.

THEODORA (theoDOORuh):

Roman Empress, former actress. 40 years old.

YAZID (yazEED not yar-):

Runs the Blue team at the chariot races.

ALSO: ANTOIM (antoEEM) x 2; CITIZENS x 2; WOMAN; OSTARDI (osTARdee) x 2; SLAVE.

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1: THE GOTHIC WAR

1: EXT. DESERT WORLD

F/X VICKI AND STEVEN ARE RUNNING ACROSS THE SURFACE OF AN ALIEN WORLD.

STEVEN:
Are you sure the TARDIS is this way?

VICKI:
For heaven's sake – yes! The Doctor's waiting for us, come on!

F/X 2 X ANTOIM – CREATURES WITH THROATY, GUTTURAL VOICES – APPROACH.

ANTOIM #1:
(OFF) Enemy in sight.

STEVEN:
They've found us!

VICKI:
There's the TARDIS! I can see the –

ANTOIM #2:
(OFF) Fire.

STEVEN:
Vicki, look out!

F/X LASER-TYPE BLAST; HITS GROUND BY VICKI.

VICKI:
(CRIES OUT)

STEVEN:
Keep going!

F/X ANOTHER BLAST AS THEY REACH TARDIS.

STEVEN:
The door's open – Go! Go!

F/X THEY PILE INTO THE TARDIS.

CONTINUES INTO:

2: INT. TARDIS [CONTINUOUS]

F/X CIRCA 1965 TARDIS BACKGROUND HUM.

STEVEN:

Doctor, it's us! Close the d-[oors] (BREAKS OFF)

F/X DOORS CLOSE.

VICKI:

Thank heavens! Those creatures were right on our - (SURPRISE)
Oh!

DOCTOR:

Vicki. Steven. It's, er... very good to see you.

STEVEN:

Who are you?

DOCTOR:

I'm... the Doctor.

STEVEN/VICKI:

The Doctor!?

DOCTOR WHO THEME

(FX: AFTER THE THEME, WE RESUME THE SCENE:)

DOCTOR:

Quite so: the Doctor.

STEVEN:

No you're not.

DOCTOR:

I realise, I do look different -

VICKI:

You're not joking.

F/X TARDIS ROCKS. SOMETHING STRONG IS BATTERING THE DOORS.

STEVEN:

They're right outside the TARDIS!

VICKI:

That's all we need!

DOCTOR:

Who are 'they', might one ask?

STEVEN:
The Antoin.

VICKI:
Great round things covered in spikes – they float and smother
and kill people! Ugh.

DOCTOR:
(ALMOST NOSTALGIC) Oh yes.

F/X SLAM! AGAINST THE DOORS. TARDIS ROCKS AGAIN.

STEVEN:
We've got to get out of here.

DOCTOR:
Yes, of course.

F/X DOCTOR STARTS TO ACTIVATE TARDIS CONTROLS.

VICKI:
What are you doing?

DOCTOR:
Getting us out of here.

VICKI:
But we can't leave the Doctor behind.

DOCTOR:
We're not leaving the Doctor behind.

STEVEN:
What are you doing with the controls? Only the Doctor can –

F/X TARDIS TAKES OFF.

DOCTOR:
You were saying?

STEVEN:
How did you do that?

VICKI:
Maybe... he is the Doctor.

DOCTOR:
I am. It's... difficult to explain. For some reason, I appear to
have suddenly switched places with the Doctor you know. I'm the
Doctor – the same Doctor – but from a different point in my
life.

STEVEN:

So you're... a younger version of the Doctor?

DOCTOR:

In a sense.

VICKI:

(TO STEVEN) I suppose he could be.

STEVEN:

But if you're younger than our Doctor, you wouldn't know who we are... and yet when we came in, you used our names.

DOCTOR:

Of course I know who you are: Steven and Vicki. (EXPLAINS) You see, I'm a younger version, but I'm actually older.

VICKI:

Do you age backwards or something?

DOCTOR:

To an extent. Look, Vicki – only the Doctor would know about the chat we had when we first met, yes? When I told you to give Barbara another chance after she shot Sandy.

STEVEN:

Sandy?

VICKI:

My pet sand beast.

STEVEN:

Your pet wh-?

DOCTOR:

(INTERRUPTING) And how we travelled to Rome together, and how that assassin attacked us at the tavern.

STEVEN:

Assass-?

VICKI:

(LAUGHS) And you threw him out of the window, and I couldn't stop laughing!

STEVEN:

(UNDER HIS BREATH) It doesn't sound that funny.

DOCTOR:

And if we've just had a brush with the Antoim... (CASTS HIS MIND BACK) Aha, yes! We helped the colonists escape, and my plan to put a stop to the Antoim didn't work, so we decided to just run away and leave them on a deserted planet.

STEVEN

And they swore they'd track you down and destroy you.

DOCTOR

I'd be surprised if they could find a way off that planet, never mind halfway across the galaxy. They're remarkably stupid.

VICKI

But why are you here instead of our Doctor? I don't understand.

DOCTOR

Neither do I. One moment I was in 'my' TARDIS, as it were; the next I was in... well, his. I mean yours.

STEVEN:

How?

DOCTOR

Some sort of temporal glitch, perhaps...? I might just switch back or...

(A BEAT)

STEVEN

'Or...'?

DOCTOR

Or... all this is rather less straightforward than I'd hoped.

F/X TARDIS LANDING BEGINS.

VICKI

We're landing.

DOCTOR

And I know where. I know exactly where.

STEVEN

Well that's a first. The Doctor - our Doctor - never knows where we're landing.

DOCTOR

I know because it's already happened, to me. (F/X: AS MATERIALISATION SEQUENCE CONCLUDES:) When next I open those doors, we'll be in the city of Ravenna near the northeast coast of Italy in the year 540 AD.

F/X SCANNER ON.

DOCTOR

There, you see? On the scanner?

STEVEN

I'll take your word for it.

VICKI

(ADMONISHINGLY) Oh, Steven, buck up – it looks nice.

DOCTOR

(UNCERTAIN) I suppose we should go outside.

F/X OPENS DOORS. RAVENNA ATMOS OUTSIDE.

STEVEN

You don't sound too sure.

DOCTOR

At this moment, I can remember how this whole journey turned out, because I've lived through it before. But as soon as I step out of the TARDIS, the timelines will change, it'll be me who does all this instead of your Doctor, and I won't remember what happened first time around because it won't have happened yet. If you see what I mean.

STEVEN

(BEAT) Yes, absolutely.

DOCTOR

Really?

STEVEN

No.

DOCTOR

It's essential that I do everything as your Doctor would have done it. Anything else, and I'll have interfered with my own timeline and... there could be severe consequences if that were to happen. Along the way I'll try to work out what's happened and how to bring your Doctor back. All right?

VICKI

All right.

STEVEN

You definitely believe he's the Doctor?

VICKI

(BEAT) Yes. There's just something... Doctorish about him.

DOCTOR

I'll take that as a compliment.

STEVEN

(RESIGNED) All right. Let's go.

CONTINUES INTO:

3: EXT. RAVENNA ALLEY [CONTINUOUS]

F/X QUIET BACKSTREET. DOCTOR SHUTS TARDIS DOOR BEHIND.

VICKI

What's so special about this place... Doctor?

DOCTOR

Ravenna? Well, it was once the capital city of the Western Roman Empire – until its collapse, of course.

STEVEN

Western Roman Empire?

DOCTOR

Yes, the Empire became split, with a Eastern Empire ruled from Constantinople, often called the Byzantine (*bizANTyne*) Empire. But now, the Eastern Empire is the only Roman Empire still standing, and Ravenna is capital of the Kingdom of the Ostrogoths.

VICKI

Ostrowhats?

DOCTOR

Ostrogoths. They occupy large parts of Italy at this time. This was supposed to be their great city, conceived as a rival to Constantinople or even Rome itself.

STEVEN

So what went wrong? The place looks half-finished. (HE KICKS OVER A PILE OF WOOD & RUBBLE.) Or half-begun.

DOCTOR

We're in the middle of the Gothic Wars. Ravenna is about to fall to the Romans, who are re-conquering Italy. Their army will march on the city at any moment.

VICKI

Is it safe?

DOCTOR

Oh yes. As sieges go, it's all quite low-key. – This way, I think.

F/X THEY WALK. FADE.

4: EXT. ENCAMPMENT OUTSIDE RAVENNA

F/X BELISARIUS IS DRESSING FOR BATTLE.

PROCOPIUS

(FUSSING OVER THE STRAPS ON HIS MASTER'S BREASTPLATE)

Belisarius, for the last time, I urge you not to go into the city personally.

BELISARIUS

(WINCING SLIGHTLY AS THE STRAPS ARE TIGHTENING) The whole point of going into Ravenna is to make them think I'm going to accept their offer, Procopius. I can't send someone else to accept on my behalf.

PROCOPIUS

At least take more than just a small complement of household troops.

BELISARIUS

I don't want it to look like I'm invading.

PROCOPIUS

But you are invading.

BELISARIUS

Which is why it's important that it doesn't look that way. Tighter across the chest.

PROCOPIUS

(PULLING ON THE CHEST STRAPS) You'll be vastly outnumbered in there.

BELISARIUS

We.

PROCOPIUS

What?

BELISARIUS

We'll be vastly outnumbered in there. You're coming too.

PROCOPIUS

(STOPS ASSISTING WITH THE ARMOUR) Me? Why?

BELISARIUS

You're my secretary and legal advisor. If I was going in to negotiate a transfer of power, you're the first person I'd bring.

PROCOPIUS

I'm not sure that I'll be [of any –]

BELISARIUS

You're coming. Now where's my sword...? (FINDING IT) Aha!

PROCOPIUS

All right – but please, at least bring a medic with you. Just in case you're beset by an assassin, [or –]

BELISARIUS

(TYING ON HIS SWORD BELT) All right, bring Quintus. But it's perfectly safe.

PROCOPIUS

How can you be sure?

BELISARIUS

(FINISHING HIS ARMOUR) They're willing to make me Western Emperor, they have too much respect [to –]

PROCOPIUS

A very generous offer. Which gives them ample reason to be angry when they find out you're not actually going to take it.

BELISARIUS

(NO MORE ARMOUR PREP) If they had any stomach for a fight they wouldn't have made this offer at all. It's my job to fight wars, Procopius, and it's your job to deal with the paperwork. Come on.

5: EXT. RAVENNA STREET

F/X DOCTOR, VICKI AND STEVEN WALK THROUGH THE CITY. A FEW PEOPLE MILLING ABOUT.

STEVEN

Not a very lively place, is it?

DOCTOR

Everyone's on edge. Hoping it'll all be over soon. Which it will.

VICKI

How did people live in these days? Never knowing if you're going to be conquered and someone else is going to be in charge...

F/X COMMOTION BEGINS, SHORT DISTANCE AWAY.

DOCTOR

Hello – here he comes.

STEVEN

Who?

DOCTOR

Belisarius. General of the Roman army. Already a legend, and he's only just turned forty.

CROSS TO:

6: EXT. RAVENNA STREET (WITH BELISARIUS) [CONTINUOUS]

F/X BELISARIUS MARCHING, HIS TROOPS BEHIND HIM. CROWD HAS GATHERED AROUND.

PROCOPIUS

(MUTTERING UNDER HIS BREATH) What happened to Quintus? He was at the back, wasn't he?

BELISARIUS

(QUIET) Eyes front, Procopius. (LOUDLY) All hail the emperor!

CROWD

(FEW BEGRUDGING 'HAILS')

PROCOPIUS

(LOW) Not many joining in with the 'hails', Belisarius.

BELISARIUS

(LOW) They've let us in now – what choice do they have?

(LOUDLY) Which way to the palace, Procopius?

PROCOPIUS

(LOUDLY) That way, General.

BELISARIUS

(LOUDLY) To the palace! Cheer, good people, cheer!

CROWD

(CHEERS)

CROSS BACK TO:

7: EXT. RAVENNA STREET [CONTINUOUS]

F/X BACK TO THE DOCTOR AND CO, AS BELISARIUS PASSES BY.

VICKI

(CAUGHT UP IN THE EXCITEMENT) They're cheering him on now.

STEVEN

I thought you said this was a siege?

DOCTOR

(LOW) The Ostrogoths think he's here to accept their offer to become Western Emperor.

STEVEN

(LOW) But he's not?

DOCTOR

(LOW) No. He'll go the palace and declare that he's conquered the city. Ravenna will have no choice but to surrender.

VICKI

(STILL EXCITED) Shall we follow the crowd? See him enter the palace?

STEVEN

Are you sure that's a good idea?

DOCTOR

I told you, this is a bloodless siege. Belisarius just sort of batters them with his reputation, so he doesn't even have to fight. I'd rather like to meet him.

VICKI

You don't have to come, Steven.

STEVEN

Shouldn't we stay together?

DOCTOR

True. Back in these days, my problems always seemed to begin with someone wandering off.

VICKI

I want to go.

STEVEN

(WITH A SIGH) All right, we'll all go. Come on.

F/X THEY WALK. FADE.

8: INT. HOUSE IN RAVENNA

F/X CROWDS BELOW. DOOR OPENS.

SOPHIA

(SURPRISED & SLIGHTLY FLUSTERED) Quintus! What are you doing here?

MONK

We agreed to meet here. Your message -

SOPHIA

Yes, but aren't you meant to be with Belisarius and the others? You can't just sneak off.

MONK

They've got other things to think about. This room's a bit dingy, Sophia. How long have you been living here?

SOPHIA

Since I arrived in Ravenna seven weeks ago.

MONK

Was this really the best room you could find?

SOPHIA

No, but you said we needed something with a high balcony.

MONK

Oh yes, I did say that. Ah! Shutters, too!

F/X MONK CROSSES TO WINDOW, THROWS SHUTTERS OPEN. INHALES.

Perfect!

SOPHIA

Why do we need a high balcony?

MONK

Hmm? Oh, because there's someone I want to find in the crowd. (SCANS THE CROWD BELOW) Three people, actually... And here they come now. See?

SOPHIA

Who are they? They are dressed so strangely...

MONK

She's called Vicki, he's the Doctor and that is Steven. And I came up here to tell you to protect them. With this.

F/X MONK BRINGS A CROSSBOW FROM A BAG.

SOPHIA

A crossbow?

MONK

You can fire it, I've seen you. You're very good. Positively Amazonian - only with a full complement of [you know whats].

SOPHIA

(INTERRUPTING) It's not very subtle though, is it?

MONK

When have you ever known me to be subtle?

SOPHIA

Fair point.

9: INT. RAVENNA PALACE

F/X DOORS ARE FLUNG OPEN, BELISARIUS AND HIS MEN MARCH IN.

BELISARIUS

Men of Ravenna! I demand your immediate surrender! – I am Flavius Belisarius of the Imperial Roman Army, and I take this city in the name of the Emperor Justinian!

F/X DOORS CLOSED.

BELISARIUS

(EXHALES) Well, that's the marching done. – Is there any wine in this palace? I'm parched.

PROCOPIUS

Fetch wine for the General! (CLAPS HIS HANDS) Wine for the General at once!

FX: SOMEONE SCURRIES OFF TO FETCH THE WINE.

BELISARIUS

(LESS PUBLICLY) Procopius, tell the crowd outside what's happened.

PROCOPIUS

Why me?

BELISARIUS

I need to stay in the palace until the handover of power is complete.

PROCOPIUS

Can't we both stay in the palace until the handover of power is complete?

BELISARIUS

Tell them anyone who offers no resistance will be left in peace. We won't loot their homes or defile their women, and we won't set fire to anything. That should quieten them down. (A BEAT) – Go on, go!

F/X PROCOPIUS HURRIES OUT. CROSS TO:

10: EXT. RAVENNA PALACE

F/X CROWD LIVENS UP AS PROCOPIUS EMERGES.

VICKI

I can't see. Some walking rampart is blocking my view. Ow! (TO THE PERSON IN FRONT OF HER) That was my foot, clumsy! (TO THE DOCTOR, AS SHE NURSES HER FOOT) What's happening now?

DOCTOR

Someone's coming out of the palace.

PROCOPIUS

(DISTANT, TO CROWD) I bear a message from Flavius Belisarius.

STEVEN

He was with Belisarius when they came past us. Who is he?

F/X CHEERS.

PROCOPIUS

He is returning the city of Ravenna to its rightful place as part of the true Roman Empire.

CITIZEN #1

Never!

F/X CROWD DISQUIET; BIT UNSURE.

PROCOPIUS

And he pledges that all those who surrender without violence will be allowed to keep their wealth, their homes, and... their families safe.

F/X MIXED REACTION. A FEW ANGRY SHOUTS BREAK OUT.

CITIZEN #1

No surrender! No surrender to the Roman invader!

F/X SHOUTS OF AGREEMENT.

VICKI

Doctor...?

DOCTOR

Yes, Vicki, things seem to be getting a little heated. How's that foot of yours?

VICKI

Recovering fast.

DOCTOR

Delighted to hear it. Steven?

STEVEN

Back to the TARDIS?

DOCTOR

Yes, back to the TARDIS. Come on. (TRYING TO PUSH THROUGH CROWD) Excuse me. Please!

CROSS TO:

11: INT. HOUSE [CONTINUOUS]

F/X COMMOTION IS AUDIBLE FROM UP HERE.

MONK

Blast! Can you still see them, Sophia?

SOPHIA

Just about, Quintus. Over to the right. They're trying to get clear, but the crowd keeps closing around them.

MONK

Getting rowdy out there, isn't it?

SOPHIA

I didn't expect this.

MONK

Expect the unexpected, my dear. I'll be needed down there – you just be ready to shoot if necessary. The Doctor isn't supposed to die here... just make sure he doesn't.

F/X MONK HURRIES FROM THE ROOM.

CROSS BACK TO:

12: EXT. RAVENNA PALACE [CONTINUOUS]

F/X QUITE CHAOTIC IN THE STREETS NOW. THEY SPEAK ABOVE THE NOISE OF THE CROWD.

VICKI

Steven? Steven! Doctor, I've can't see Steven in the crowd!

DOCTOR

Me neither. Let's head back to the TARDIS and hopefully we'll meet him there.

VICKI

I thought you said this would go off peacefully?

DOCTOR

I don't understand. They should be accepting his terms.

CITIZEN #1

Coward! He's betrayed us and you think we should roll over?

DOCTOR

Good citizen – Belisarius has an army out there and men on the inside – you don't stand a chance!

CITIZEN #1

What about our pride? We're not going down without a fight.

F/X DRAWS A SWORD.

CITIZEN #1

Starting with traitors like you.

VICKI

Doctor!

F/X CROSSBOW BOLT SHOOTS THROUGH THE AIR AND HITS THE CITIZEN IN THE CHEST. THE CROWD ON EITHER SIDE REACT.

CITIZEN #1

Time you accepted my terms, you trai- (CRIES OUT, FALLS BACK)

VICKI

What on earth was that? What's happened to him?

DOCTOR

(EXAMINES HIM) He's been shot with a crossbow bolt. He's dead...!

VICKI

Then there's nothing we can do for him. Doctor, let's go!

F/X VICKI BUSTLES HIM AWAY. CROSS TO:

13: EXT. RAVENNA PALACE (CLOSE BY)

F/X STEVEN'S IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CROWD.

STEVEN

Doctor? Vicki? Doctor! – Please, let me through – I need to find my friends...

CITIZEN #2

Oi! No need to push! What's the hurry anyway?

STEVEN

I'm sorry, I just need to get through to my friends –

CITIZEN #2

What friends? Your Roman friends?

STEVEN

Don't be stupid. Please!

CITIZEN #2

Oh – stupid, am I? I'll show you who's [PUNCHING] stupid!

F/X WHACK! CITIZEN CLUBS STEVEN UNCONSCIOUS.

STEVEN

(GASPS AS HE GOES DOWN)

14: EXT. ALLEY

F/X DOCTOR AND VICKI RUSH TOWARDS TARDIS.

VICKI
Steven isn't here.

DOCTOR
Maybe he went inside the TARDIS to wait.

VICKI
You're the only one with a key.

DOCTOR
Oh. Yes. You two should really have keys [of your -] Down!

F/X FOOT SCRAPES.

VICKI
(LOW) What?

DOCTOR
(LOW) There's someone hiding behind the TARDIS. I saw their shadow. (RAISING VOICE) Come out from behind the box and we won't, er, hurt you.

F/X PROCOPIUS STEPS OUT.

PROCOPIUS
Please. I'm not, I'm not armed, I'm not a soldier -

VICKI
Hey, he's the man who talked to the crowd.

DOCTOR
So he is.

PROCOPIUS
You're Goths?

VICKI
Goths? No, we're...

DOCTOR
- just visiting the city. Who are you?

PROCOPIUS
Me? Nobody.

VICKI
Everybody's somebody.

PROCOPIUS

Well I'm not. I'm just Belisarius' legal adviser.

DOCTOR

Procopius of Caesarea?!

PROCOPIUS

(BEAT) How did you know that?

DOCTOR

Author of 'The Wars Of Justinian', and 'The Secret History'.
It's an honour to meet you!

PROCOPIUS

I haven't written any (hist-)

DOCTOR

Not yet, but you're thinking about it.

PROCOPIUS

Yes, well, I mean I have accompanied Belisarius on several
military excursions and I've made close-hand observations of -
Look, who are you?

VICKI

I'm Vicki, and this is the Doctor.

DOCTOR

You were at the siege of Rome.

PROCOPIUS

Ah yes, it was my privilege to witness -

VICKI

Doctor! Shouldn't we be looking for Steven?

DOCTOR

Of course. We've been separated from our friend. You haven't
seen him, have you? Tall, dark-haired, square-jawed -

PROCOPIUS

(INTERRUPTING) I don't think you'll find anyone until the
fighting's calmed down. I tried to get back into the palace,
but some of the crowd went for the doors. Cut me off.

VICKI

So what do we do?

DOCTOR

You stay here, Vicki - I'll go out and look. Procopius can tell
you all about the capture of Carthage. Back in a jiffy.

F/X DOCTOR LEAVES.

VICKI

(AFTER DOCTOR) He can tell me what about Carthage?

PROCOPIUS

Ah. Well, if you want to know about Carthage you have to go back to the Battle of Ad Decimum (*DEKKYm'm*), ten miles from Carthage.

VICKI

Right.

PROCOPIUS

Unfortunately, Gelimer's (*GELLYmuh*) intelligence was sound, and he had advance warning of the pending arrival of the Roman army...

F/X FADE DOWN.

15: EXT. RAVENNA PALACE

F/X SNATCHES OF THE PREVIOUS SCENE & OF THE MONK'S 'YOUNG MAN'
FADE IN & OUT, SWIMMING AROUND THE STEREOFIELD, SOMETIMES
MUFFLED, SOMETIMES SHARP. THEY RESOLVE INTO STEVEN BEING SHAKEN
AWAKE BY THE MONK. STILL A BIT ROWDY OUTSIDE.

MONK

Young man? Hello?

STEVEN

Whu...?

MONK

Don't worry, the worst of the fighting's over. Are you all
right?

STEVEN

(SHUDDERING, PAINED BREATH) Doctor. Find the Doctor.

MONK

You're in luck. It so happens that I'm a physician.

STEVEN

No... different kind of Doc—

MONK

Shh... save your strength. You'll need it.

16: EXT. ALLEY

F/X DOCTOR RETURNS DURING PROCOPIUS' SPEECH.

PROCOPIUS

But then – the turning point of the battle: we slew Gelimer's brother, thereby throwing the commander of the opposition forces into crisis and enabling us to regroup. We [then –]

VICKI

(WITH RELIEF, HAVING BEEN BORED) Doctor!

DOCTOR

(APPROACHING) Glad you're still safe.

PROCOPIUS

Yes, it's all been quiet down here.

VICKI

No sign of Steven?

DOCTOR

I'm afraid not. But the fighting's calming down.

VICKI

I'll come and help you look, then.

PROCOPIUS

But I haven't even got to the taking of Carthage yet.

DOCTOR

You can tell us later. Come on.

F/X THEY WALK TOWARDS THE END OF THE ALLEYWAY.

PROCOPIUS

If your friend was caught up in the fighting, it's possible he was mistaken for a Goth and taken prisoner.

VICKI

Oh no.

DOCTOR

If that was the case... (STOPS WALKING) perhaps I could speak to Belisarius?

PROCOPIUS

Yes, I could get you an audience.

DOCTOR

Vicki – can you keep looking for Steven while I deal with this?

VICKI

I suppose. After all, you're the one who knows all about glad-handing historical figures.

PROCOPIUS

Historical?

DOCTOR

He'll be at the palace, I take it...?

17: EXT. ANOTHER ALLEY

F/X MONK SHOULDERING WOUNDED STEVEN ALONG.

STEVEN

Wh-where are we going...?

MONK

(GRUNTING WITH THE EFFORT) Don't you worry, my young friend.
I'll take care of you. You'll see...

F/X THEY MOVE ON.

18: INT. PALACE — THRONE ROOM

F/X FADE UP. DOOR OPENS A CRACK. WE ARE POSITIONED WITH BELISARIUS; THE DOOR IS ABOUT 20 FEET AWAY.

PROCOPIUS

Belisarius...? Is this a good time?

BELISARIUS

Yes, yes. Where have you been, Procopius?

PROCOPIUS

I was cut off from the palace during the fighting.

F/X OPENS DOOR WIDER TO ADMIT DOCTOR.

PROCOPIUS

This man helped me — he's called the Doctor.

BELISARIUS

Let him approach.

DOCTOR

(WALKING UP TO BELISARIUS) General, hello. A friend of mine was caught in the upheaval, I'm trying to find him.

BELISARIUS

Whose side was he on?

DOCTOR

He wasn't — we're just visitors. But we wondered if perhaps he'd been mistaken for a Goth, and captured.

BELISARIUS

If he was wearing clothes like yours, with your legs all covered like that, doubtless he was mistaken for a Goth.

DOCTOR

Right.

BELISARIUS

In which case, he's gone.

DOCTOR

Gone?

BELISARIUS

Anyone involved in the resistance will be on their way to the coast by now. I ordered them to be put on a boat for Constantinople.

DOCTOR

You must get them to turn back.

BELISARIUS

No, I'd need to send a rider and nobody can be spared whilst we're securing the city.

DOCTOR

Then let me go.

BELISARIUS

Nobody comes in or out except my men, until I say so.

DOCTOR

But you must understand –

BELISARIUS

And you must understand that I'm trying to rebuild the Roman Empire, and I'm afraid I consider that to be of greater importance.

19: EXT. RAVENNA STREET

F/X VICKI WANDERING THE STREETS, ENCOUNTERS A WOMAN.

VICKI

His name's Steven. Steven Taylor. Dark hair, strange clothes?

WOMAN

No, sorry.

VICKI

All right – thank you anyway.

F/X SOPHIA APPROACHES HER.

SOPHIA

Excuse me – was this man wearing a sort of blue tunic? And black shoes?

VICKI

Yes! Have you seen him?

SOPHIA

He was being taken away with the injured.

VICKI

Where are they now?

SOPHIA

Bound for Constantinople.

VICKI

Oh no...

SOPHIA

Is he your betrothed?

VICKI

No no.

SOPHIA

Then why are you so keen to find him?

VICKI

(BEAT) Yes, actually he is. It's a secret. We eloped together.

SOPHIA

How romantic. I shall shortly be travelling on to Constantinople myself. I could show you the way to the port, if you like...?

VICKI
I'd be very grateful, er...

SOPHIA
Sophia.

VICKI
I'm Vicki.

F/X AS THEY WALK:

VICKI
Is that where you're from? Constantinople?

SOPHIA
No no, I'm from Nikopolis (niCOPolis). Surely, you must have realised – you speak such good Greek.

VICKI
Do I?

SOPHIA
No need to be modest.

VICKI
Why did you leave Greece?

SOPHIA
Oh, they thought I was strange. I... did some strange things, it was better to leave. I couldn't understand why I was different – but then a man, a stranger, came to my town. He talked to me, and explained why.

VICKI
That was lucky. To find someone who understood.

SOPHIA
Yes. Without him, I'd probably be dead...

20: INT. SHIP (BELOW DECKS)

F/X AT SEA. CREAKING TIMBERS.

STEVEN
(COMING ROUND) Whu... where...?

MONK
Steady, my boy. Don't try to get up.

STEVEN
What happened?

MONK
There was fighting in the city. You were injured.

STEVEN
I remember getting hit on the head... ow!

MONK
You've caught a blow from a sword across your chest. I've treated it as best I can... it seems to be healing well enough...

STEVEN
You pulled me out of the crowd. You saved my life. Who are you?

MONK
My name is Quintus.

STEVEN
Thank you, Quintus. (BEAT) Wait – are we on a ship?

MONK
Yes.

STEVEN
What? Why?

MONK
Any Goths captured in the siege are being taken to Constantinople to join the Roman army and fight the Persian menace.

STEVEN
Oh no – I'm not a Goth.

MONK
Oh. I thought you didn't look like you were from round here.

STEVEN
I don't even really know what one is. I was just visiting the city.

MONK

Odd time to visit, in the middle of a siege. How did you get in? Fall out of the sky?

STEVEN

Not exactly. But my friends – the people I was travelling with – they're back there.

MONK

I'm afraid it's too late to turn back, but I'm sure I can sort this out with the captain. You'll be a free man when we reach Constantinople..

STEVEN

But I'll be stranded there.

MONK

Look on the bright side. At least you'll be stranded in the finest city in the world.

F/X FADE.

21: INT. PALACE — THRONE ROOM

F/X PROCOPIUS RUSHES IN, FOLLOWED BY THE DOCTOR. AS BEFORE, WE ARE POSITIONED WITH BELISARIUS & THE OTHERS APPROACH US.

PROCOPIUS

(OFF) Belisarius! A message has arrived for you.

DOCTOR

It's from the Emperor Justinian.

BELISARIUS

(SIGHS) Perhaps it's a message of congratulations.

PROCOPIUS

Er... it has been only a matter of hours since you completed the occupation, so word of your victory won't even reach him until

—

DOCTOR

I think that was a joke, Procopius.

F/X BELISARIUS OPENS THE WAX SEAL & UNROLLS THE MESSAGE.
READS.

BELISARIUS

What in the name of — ?

PROCOPIUS

What's it say?

BELISARIUS

He wants us to return.

PROCOPIUS

To Constantinople?

BELISARIUS

With immediate effect. Angels defend us! The job here is only half done. If I leave now —

PROCOPIUS

The Goths will encroach on the territory we've secured.

DOCTOR

Ah, I think the Emperor's concern might be [that —]

BELISARIUS

Who asked you?

DOCTOR

Nobody. Carry on.

PROCOPIUS

The Emperor says the armies in Persia are massing.

BELISARIUS

They won't mass as quickly as all that. Has he heard of the offer they made to me here?

DOCTOR

He'll have been told, surely.

BELISARIUS

He thought I'd take it. Faithless idiot.

PROCOPIUS

And you weren't tempted? At all?

BELISARIUS

This is my life's work! A thousand years from now, Roman Emperors will remember me as the one who made it all possible! The one who built the Empire back up when it was on its knees – after the feckless numbskulls who called themselves Emperors let Rome itself slip away from them!

F/X BELISARIUS SCREWS UP MESSAGE.

PROCOPIUS

We should prepare to return.

BELISARIUS

Should we?

PROCOPIUS

Well... the Emperor seems quite clear [that –]

BELISARIUS

And I am quite clear that the conquest of Italy must be completed now and I would not let the gods themselves stand in the way of that, never mind the petty jealousies of a corrupt fool like Justinian.

DOCTOR

General, if I could [just –]

BELISARIUS

If you could what?

DOCTOR

The Emperor is correct to be worried about the threat from Persia. I've, er, been there myself quite recently – and without you there to defend Constantinople, well...

PROCOPIUS

It would be like cutting off the Empire's head.

DOCTOR

And clearly Justinian is already suspicious of your motives.

BELISARIUS

Baseless suspicion.

DOCTOR

Of course, but... if you don't show him he's mistaken now – how do you think he'll interpret it if you disobey him and stay in Italy?

PROCOPIUS

That would be a disaster. The armies of the Empire fighting each other? The Persians would walk in and all would be lost.

BELISARIUS

(BEAT) This is a mistake. But I'm not the one who has made it.

(BEAT) Very well, prepare for our departure.

F/X BELISARIUS DEPARTS.

DOCTOR

Procopius – would my friend and I be able to travel on with you to Constantinople?

PROCOPIUS

Yes, I'm sure. Thank you, Doctor – for what you said.

DOCTOR

Oh, don't mention it.

PROCOPIUS

He must obey the Emperor. However misguided it seems.

DOCTOR

Yes, I'm afraid he must.

22: EXT. PORT

F/X FADE UP. SEAGULLS. SHIPS BEING LOADED.

BELISARIUS

(CALLS) Hurry it up, men! A donkey could load a ship faster than you – I want to be ready to sail within the hour! (TO SELF) Every minute I spend here just reminds me of what I'm leaving behind.

VICKI

Please, General – are you sure you can't find room for it on the ship?

BELISARIUS

No. It's too large and too heavy.

DOCTOR

But it's very, very important to us.

BELISARIUS

The wellbeing of my army is very, very important to me. It would take up valuable space needed for provisions.

VICKI

Please –

BELISARIUS

Be grateful I'm allowing you passage on my ship. I am not taking your enormous blue travelling chest as well.

F/X BELISARIUS STRIDES AWAY.

VICKI

Oh no.

DOCTOR

Don't worry. It just means we'll have to return to Ravenna after we find Steven.

VICKI

If we find Steven.

DOCTOR

Brave heart, Vicki.

VICKI

It's lucky the army's turning back so soon.

DOCTOR

For us, yes. Not such a good thing generally, though.

VICKI
Why not?

DOCTOR
If he was allowed to stay here, Belisarius would have completed the conquest of Italy in a matter of months. While he's away, there'll be skirmishes and land-grabs... and eventually he'll come back and conquer it all over again. Many more lives lost, for no good reason. And I just helped that to happen.

VICKI
You did?

DOCTOR
Not because I wanted to get a lift to Constantinople, we'd have found another way if we needed to, but because –

VICKI
That's what was supposed to happen.

DOCTOR
Exactly. Otherwise, who knows, maybe the Roman Empire would still be around in your time.

VICKI
Yes, maybe I'd be called Victorious.

DOCTOR
Please, don't joke.

VICKI
You're a lot more fretful than my Doctor, you know.

DOCTOR
I assure you – I'm the same man.

VICKI
I know, I know. But you are... different. In a strange way... you do seem older.

DOCTOR
Really? I hope I'm wiser too.

VICKI
(DISTRACED) Look! There's Sophia.

DOCTOR
Who?

VICKI
The woman who showed me the way to the port. She must have a berth on the General's ship, too..

23: EXT. CONSTANTINOPLE STREET

F/X FADE UP. GENERAL BUSTLE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE CITY IN THE WORLD. STEVEN WALKING, WITH THE MONK.

MONK

Well, what do you think of Constantinople, Steven?

STEVEN

I can't believe it's so big, Quintus. Bigger than I was expecting. Amazing architecture...

MONK

There has been a major programme of new public buildings, ever since the Emperor Justinian came to power. — Is there anywhere I can take you, my boy?

STEVEN

I don't know. I need to make passage back to Ravenna, but I've no money. I suppose I'll have to earn some.

MONK

Well... they're always looking for help down at the chariot races.

STEVEN

Really?

MONK

If you're feeling up to it. There's a little job I have to do first... but if you meet me at the Hippodrome later, I can introduce you to my chum Yazid.

STEVEN

Hippodrome?

MONK

Where the chariot races are.

24: EXT. DECK OF SHIP

F/X SEAGULLS. SHIP COMING IN TO PORT.

DOCTOR

There it is, Vicki. Constantinople.

VICKI

At last!

DOCTOR

At this time, the largest city the world has ever seen. And most of it's brand new.

VICKI

So long as the land doesn't sway from side to side. After days at sea, that's all I care about.

PROCOPIUS

Quite a greeting party down there on the docks.

DOCTOR

They'll have heard all about your success in Italy, Procopius.

PROCOPIUS

(PLEASED) Do you think so?

F/X THUD AS SHIP DOCKS. A BOARDING PLANK IS PULLED INTO PLACE.

DOCTOR

Come on — let's get ashore and we can start looking for —

F/X FROM THE DOCK:

GUARD

(OFF) There he is! The blond one.

F/X 2 X GUARDS BOARD, HURRIEDLY.

VICKI

Now what's all that about...?

PROCOPIUS

Imperial guards. Doctor, I think they were waiting for you!

DOCTOR

Me? But how —

F/X GUARDS STOMP OVER TO HIM.

GUARD

You're the Doctor, yes?

DOCTOR

Not much point denying it.

F/X THEY GRAB HIM AND MARCH HIM AWAY.

VICKI

Hey! Where are you taking him? (TO PROCOPIUS) Procopius, what's this about?

PROCOPIUS

I wish I knew.

DOCTOR

(OFF) Don't worry, Vicki! I'll think of something. I think.

25: INT. PALACE (EMPEROR'S CHAMBERS)

F/X GRACEFUL, LUXURIOUS. A LIGHT TINKLE OF A FOUNTAIN. PERHAPS SOME CAGED BIRDS. THE MONK ENTERS.

MONK

Emperor Justinian! Thank you for gracing me with your valuable time.

JUSTINIAN

You are always welcome in our chambers, Quintus.

MONK

I'm honoured.

JUSTINIAN

You were right. The man you identified was aboard Belisarius' ship.

MONK

Excellent news.

JUSTINIAN

I've had him arrested. You're quite sure? This Doctor is a Persian spy?

MONK

Very sure. What will you do with him?

JUSTINIAN

Question him. Torture him, if necessary. Then put him to death.

MONK

Very good, your Imperial majesty. Oh, yes. Very good indeed.

END OF PART ONE

2: THE LAST ROMAN

(NO REPRISE)

26: EXT. PORT

F/X BELISARIUS' SHIP STILL BEING UNLOADED.

VICKI

General Belisarius, surely you can do something to help the Doctor?

BELISARIUS

I'm far too busy here, unloading the ship.

VICKI

Are they really accusing him of being a spy?

PROCOPIUS

Apparently, yes.

VICKI

Oh, Procopius – but it's absurd!

BELISARIUS

Don't feel bad for being taken in by him, Vicki. These people are clever. They seem perfectly normal.

VICKI

I'm sure they do, but the Doctor has never seemed 'perfectly normal' to me.

PROCOPIUS

She has a point, Belisarius. Wouldn't a spy try to be less conspicuous?

BELISARIUS

Perhaps, it's not my affair. The Emperor will decide. You'd better pray he's in a good mood.

VICKI

I want to know who's accused him of this.

PROCOPIUS

Why?

VICKI

Maybe it's a case of mistaken identity, but if not they must have a reason for wanting the Doctor arrested.

BELISARIUS

(SIGHS) I need to speak with the Emperor later about his so-called 'strategy' – I shall raise the matter with him then.

VICKI

When will we go?

BELISARIUS

First I need to leave instructions with – What do you mean, 'we'?

VICKI

Isn't it better that I come with you instead of getting you to repeat it all to me later?

BELISARIUS

(BEAT) All right, but you are not to speak.

VICKI

Of course not.

PROCOPIUS

I'm not needed, am I?

BELISARIUS

No, I think this will be quite straightforward. I'll tell the Emperor he's wrong, he'll refuse to change his mind, and then if we haven't killed each other, I'll deal with Vicki's business.

PROCOPIUS

Good.

VICKI

Why good?

BELISARIUS

He doesn't like going to the Palace, it might mean he had to talk to the Empress. (TO PROCOPIUS) She's probably asleep anyway, Procopius, she usually is.

VICKI

Why don't you like her?

PROCOPIUS

Because her soul is a cesspool.

BELISARIUS

You just don't trust yourself around beautiful women.

PROCOPIUS

No man should trust himself around beautiful women.

BELISARIUS

You're a complex chap, aren't you, Procopius?

VICKI

Procopius... would you mind checking on the Doctor for me?

PROCOPIUS

Well... I suppose —

VICKI

I'd be very grateful. Just to make sure he's being well treated.

BELISARIUS

Oh, I'm sure they haven't started torturing him yet.

27: INT. HIPPODROME (STABLES)

F/X HORSES QUIETLY HUFFING, STOMPING THROUGHOUT.

STEVEN

So are these chariot races popular?

MONK

Good grief, yes. The greatest action spectacle you'll see anywhere in the world today. Thrills. Drama. People getting trampled by horses. Fun for all the family.

STEVEN

It's dangerous, then?

MONK

Not where you'll be, I shouldn't think. (CALLS) Yazid! – I've a strong young man in need of hard manual labour. His name's Steven.

YAZID

(COMING OVER) Hmm. You a Blue or a Green?

STEVEN

A what?

MONK

He's not from Constantinople. (TO STEVEN) Blue and Green are the colours of the two chariot teams. Everyone in the city supports one or the other.

YAZID

My family's Blue going back three generations.

STEVEN

I'll be Blue if you give me a job.

YAZID

You worked with horses before?

STEVEN

I was hoping for something along more... mechanical lines.

YAZID

We haven't got anything along more mechanical lines. We got something along more 'mucking out the stables' lines.

MONK

He's bright, and willing to learn...

YAZID

And willing to stink of horse dung?

STEVEN

(BEAT) Sure.

YAZID

All right, all right – I'll take him.

STEVEN

Thank you. I don't suppose I could have an advance on my wages, could I?

YAZID

Ha ha ha ha ha ha! No.

STEVEN

It's just, I've nowhere to stay tonight and no money so –

MONK

Don't worry, don't worry – I can give you a little money.

STEVEN

You've been so kind – I'll pay you back. Thank you.

MONK

No no, thank you.

STEVEN

What for?

MONK

For your company on the voyage. I do get bored of talking to soldiers. I hope to see you again.

STEVEN

Yes, well – I'll be here.

YAZID

Here you go. One shovel.

F/X HANDS STEVEN A SHOVEL.

YAZID

Horses are over there.

STEVEN

Thanks.

28: INT. COURT

F/X A GRAND, INTRICATELY DECORATED CHAMBER. HIGH-CEILINGED. SHUTTERED WINDOWS. COOL. BELISARIUS AND VICKI AWAIT JUSTINIAN.

VICKI

This is fancy.

BELISARIUS

What else would you expect from an Emperor's palace?

VICKI

An Emperor. Where is he?

BELISARIUS

He's keeping me waiting to show me who's in charge. Remember, girl, don't speak unless the Emperor addresses you directly.

VICKI

Yes, General, I get it.

BELISARIUS

He's a capricious man. Any little annoyance, any suspicion that he's being manipulated or made a fool of, and he might decide to have the Doctor put to death. Or have you put to death. Or both.

VICKI

Right.

F/X DRAPES PUSHED ASIDE AS JUSTINIAN ENTERS.

JUSTINIAN

(APPROACHING) Belisarius! Welcome home.

BELISARIUS

Thank you, your majesty.

JUSTINIAN

And we see you've bought us a present.

VICKI

What?

BELISARIUS

Ah. No, you see —

JUSTINIAN

An Ostrogoth, is she? Is this how they're dressing these days? How comical.

BELISARIUS

No no – she's not a present.

JUSTINIAN

Perhaps we should be the judge of that.

BELISARIUS

She's the travelling companion of the man you arrested as a Persian spy earlier today.

JUSTINIAN

Oh.

BELISARIUS

She's accompanied me here to make the case for his innocence.

JUSTINIAN

Then she's wasted her time. I'm not prepared to consider releasing him. (BEAT) Unless, of course, you were willing to surrender something in return...?

VICKI

Like what?

JUSTINIAN

Hmm... what could a lady such as yourself offer us...?

VICKI

You mean...? – Well, of all the [cheek]

BELISARIUS

(HURRIED INTERJECTION) Your majesty – if this Doctor is as dangerous as you suggest, surely he should not be allowed to go free on any grounds?

JUSTINIAN

Are you questioning our judgement?

BELISARIUS

I simply mean, the threat from Persia must be serious indeed, to justify my return from Italy – so in fact it is your judgement, not mine, that suggests he should not be let go.

VICKI

Hey! I thought –

JUSTINIAN

Be quiet. (TO BELISARIUS) Yes, the threat from Persia is a grave one.

BELISARIUS

Of course it is. I'm sure your decision to abandon the Italian front was not taken lightly, but if this Persian menace is imminent –

JUSTINIAN

It is.

BELISARIUS

Then we must concentrate our resources here, and Italy will have to wait. Hopefully we shan't lose Rome again.

JUSTINIAN

Well, the faster you defeat the Persians, the faster you can get back there.

BELISARIUS

Then there's no time to waste. (TO VICKI) Come on, Vicki.

VICKI

But you didn't ask [him about –]

BELISARIUS

Come on.

F/X THEY LEAVE WITH A HEAVILY CLOSED DOOR. CONTINUES INTO:

29: INT. PALACE (CORRIDOR) [CONTINUOUS]

F/X MOSAIC UNDERNEATH THEIR FEET. MORE OF A COLONNADE.
BELISARIUS STRIDES ALONG, VICKI HURRYING AFTER.

BELISARIUS
Unbelievable.

VICKI
Hey, that's not what we [agreed -]

BELISARIUS
The nerve of him, to act like this is all about Persia.

SOPHIA
(APPROACHING FROM OFF) Belisarius. Hello.

F/X BELISARIUS STOPS; VICKI ALSO.

BELISARIUS
Sophia. I'm sorry, I didn't see you there.

SOPHIA
No need to apologise.

BELISARIUS
Are you waiting to see the Emperor?

SOPHIA
Yes. Has your audience with him concluded so soon?

VICKI
Sooner than I'd hoped, certainly.

BELISARIUS
Yes, yes - he just wanted to offer his congratulations to my
army for the conquests in Italy.

SOPHIA
How nice of him.

F/X BELISARIUS WALKS ON. WE REMAIN WITH VICKI & SOPHIA.

BELISARIUS
(RECEDING) Yes, wasn't it. Vicki!

VICKI
(TUTS) Coming.

F/X VICKI HURRIES AFTER BELISARIUS. WE GO WITH HER.

BELISARIUS

He has heard about the deal they offered me at Ravenna. Of course the paranoid old fool thinks everyone's out for power.

VICKI

Yes, but –

BELISARIUS

And then he has the nerve to consider releasing a Persian spy, right in front of me!

VICKI

But wasn't that what we wanted?

BELISARIUS

It was what you wanted. The fate of your friend is not my problem.

VICKI

But you don't understand – if the Doctor doesn't go free, then –

BELISARIUS

(STOPS) Then what? Does the weight of history rest on the Doctor's shoulders?

VICKI

Yes! Yes, it does!

BELISARIUS

(LAUGHS) Come then, explain to me how this man nobody has heard of can be so important.

VICKI

(PAUSE) Oh, you wouldn't understand.

BELISARIUS

I don't blame you. A woman should think her man the most important person in the world. Come!

F/X BELISARIUS STRIDES OFF, VICKI IS FORCED TO HURRY AFTER HIM. WE REMAIN WHERE THEY STOPPED.

VICKI

(RECEDING) No, it's not like that. It's not!

30: INT. CELLS

F/X CELL DOOR SLAMS, IS LOCKED BEHIND. A SLIGHT TINKLE FROM THE MANACLES THE DOCTOR IS WEARING.

DOCTOR

Thank you for coming to see me, Procopius.

PROCOPIUS

Good of them to put you in the Palace cells.

DOCTOR

One cell's much like another, believe me.

PROCOPIUS

These are a lot cleaner than the ones downtown.

F/X PICKS UP CHAIN.

PROCOPIUS

And look, these leg manacles are on a nice long chain – I've seen ones where you can barely reach the opposite wall.

F/X CLANK OF KEY, DOOR OPENS, VICKI ENTERS.

GAOLER

Another visitor.

VICKI

Doctor?

DOCTOR

Vicki! Thank goodness.

F/X DOOR SLAMS BEHIND VICKI.

VICKI

They've got you chained up! Procopius – surely this isn't necessary?

DOCTOR

Never mind me – are you safe?

PROCOPIUS

Belisarius is looking after her.

VICKI

(GRUMBLING) Belisarius.

PROCOPIUS

Did he put your case to the Emperor?

VICKI

No! He said he was going to, but before we even got to it, the Emperor said he might let the Doctor go anyway, and Belisarius ended up arguing against it! I'm sorry, Doctor.

DOCTOR

Not your fault. It's a little much to expect you to change an Emperor's mind.

VICKI

I still don't understand – who told the Emperor you're a spy? Nobody in Constantinople even knew we were coming here, but you were arrested straight off the boat – they even recognised you, and you're not even supposed to look like this.

PROCOPIUS

What do you mean, 'Not supposed to [look –']

DOCTOR

I see what you mean, Vicki – a message must have been sent from Ravenna ahead of us.

PROCOPIUS

Belisarius' troops are loyal men, none of them would go over his head. They'd have reported their suspicions to him first.

DOCTOR

Then who does that leave?

VICKI

(BEAT) Sophia. I just saw her waiting to see the Emperor.

PROCOPIUS

What did she want?

VICKI

I was going to ask but Belisarius dragged me away. Not Sophia, surely? She seemed so nice...

DOCTOR

What do we know about her?

VICKI

She's Greek... and she's not married.

DOCTOR

Why should she want to tell people I'm a spy?

VICKI

She's still up there, talking to him. If I wait for her outside, I can catch her on her way out and maybe we can get some answers.

PROCOPIUS

I'll come with you. If this woman poses a threat to the security of the Empire, we need to know. (CALLS) Gaoler!

F/X GAOLER OPENS DOOR.

DOCTOR

Be careful!

PROCOPIUS

I will, Doctor.

DOCTOR

I was talking more to Vicki.

PROCOPIUS

Oh.

DOCTOR

But, er, you be careful too.

PROCOPIUS

Yes. Thank you.

VICKI

Come on, Procopius...

F/X VICKI LEADS PROCOPIUS OUT.

31: INT. HIPPODROME (STABLES)

F/X STEVEN SHOVELLING IN STABLES. YAZID ENTERS.

YAZID

Haven't you finished mucking out the horses yet?

STEPHEN

(STOPS; PANTING) Sorry. Slow going in this heat.

YAZID

(COUGHS) Where on Earth is — (BREAKS DOWN INTO COUGHING FIT)

STEVEN

Are you all right?

YAZID

Yes, yes — Where is Heraclius (hairRACKlius)?

STEVEN

He went home. (BEGINS SHOVELLING AGAIN)

YAZID

What?

STEVEN

He's not well. He could hardly breathe — there was no point having him here, he was just getting in the way.

YAZID

(COUGHS)

STEVEN

You don't sound too clever either.

YAZID

I'll be fine. I often get it when the wind kicks the dust up. Stop shovelling, that's good enough.

F/X STEVEN STOPS SHOVELLING.

YAZID

Do you have any skill with a brush?

STEVEN

You want me to sweep up now?

YAZID

A paintbrush. We've fitted three fresh wheels to chariots and if I don't get them painted people at the other end of the Hippodrome won't be able to tell one team from another. Can you do it?

STEVEN

Of course.

YAZID

Come with me and you can get started.

STEVEN

It's getting late, I was going to go and look for somewhere to stay.

YAZID

You can sleep in my office tonight, there's blankets and so on in there.

STEVEN

Thanks. I think.

YAZID

We need to make up for lost time. We've got a race tomorrow and we won't be ready if people keep crying off at the slightest snuffle. (STARTS COUGHING AGAIN)

32: EXT. PALACE

F/X LATE EVENING. OWL OR OTHER NIGHT BIRD NOISE. VICKI AND PROCOPIUS ARE WATCHING THE PALACE GATES.

VICKI
Procopius-

PROCOPIUS
Shh!

VICKI
(HUSHED) Sorry. Procopius - is that gate the only way in and out of the palace?

PROCOPIUS
It's the only way Sophia would be allowed to leave, if that's what you're asking.

VICKI
Just thought we might have missed her. She's been in there a long time.

PROCOPIUS
Perhaps the Emperor has taken a shine to her.

VICKI
Ugh, yes. He tried it on with me.

PROCOPIUS
And you rejected him?

VICKI
Fortunately I didn't have to. Belisarius intervened.

PROCOPIUS
You could have gained a considerable advantage.

VICKI
Thank you, but I'll find another way to help the Doctor.

F/X FOOTSTEPS ACROSS COURTYARD.

VICKI
(LOW) There she is.

PROCOPIUS
(LOW) Shall we approach her together?

VICKI
(LOW) No, wait. She hasn't seen us... Let's follow her, see where she goes.

PROCOPIUS
(LOW) Why?

VICKI
(LOW) We might find out something she doesn't want us to know.

F/X THEY FOLLOW SOPHIA. FADE.

33: INT. PALACE

F/X CURTAINS SWISH. JUSTINIAN ENTERS.

JUSTINIAN

Ah! Theodora. It has been a singularly tedious day.

THEODORA

Tedious? Really, Justinian?

JUSTINIAN

Deeply tedious, my love.

THEODORA

So the pretty young lady who arrived at the end of the afternoon – was she tedious, too?

JUSTINIAN

Quintus said we should speak to her.

THEODORA

Oh, well if Quintus said so.

JUSTINIAN

Quintus has been right about a great many things.

THEODORA

I'm sure it was a terrible chore.

JUSTINIAN

You think I enjoy having a constant stream of people coming through my home? Considering the size of this palace, you'd think I might get a bit of peace and quiet occasionally.

THEODORA

What did she want?

JUSTINIAN

She wanted to tell me about some prophecies from her native lands.

THEODORA

You don't believe that sort of thing.

JUSTINIAN

No, but it can be useful to know about them. Some of them were about me, or at least they might be about me, and if they come true –

THEODORA

Was I in them too?

JUSTINIAN

A moment ago you didn't even believe this girl had come to [me about –]

THEODORA

I was joking. You know my sense of humour.

JUSTINIAN

Yes. You did figure in them, actually.

THEODORA

Oh good. Well. Unless they're prophecies of my death.

JUSTINIAN

If she'd told me that I would have had her executed for upsetting me.

THEODORA

That's sweet of you.

JUSTINIAN

It was all quite exciting. The restoration of the Empire. Permanently.

THEODORA

Ooh.

JUSTINIAN

Harmony. Happiness. Stability. A peaceful future.

THEODORA

Really? Doesn't sound your sort of thing, beloved.

JUSTINIAN

What do you mean?

THEODORA

We don't unite. We divide – and conquer.

JUSTINIAN

Yes, it's probably all rubbish.

THEODORA

A girl will say all manner of nonsense to get into an emperor's chambers.

JUSTINIAN

Did you?

THEODORA

I didn't have to.

34: EXT. BASILICA CISTERN

F/X VICKI AND PROCOPIUS STILL FOLLOWING SOPHIA, AT A DISTANCE.

VICKI

Where's she going?

PROCOPIUS

That's the Basilica Cistern.

VICKI

The what?

PROCOPIUS

They only finished it quite recently. The Basilica was destroyed in the riots, you see, and -

VICKI

But it's not a house?

PROCOPIUS

No no, of course it's not a house. Whoever heard of a sunken house?

VICKI

Don't talk to me like I'm an idiot, just tell me what it is.

PROCOPIUS

Well it's a cistern. It's part of the water supply of the city.

VICKI

Perhaps she's thirsty.

PROCOPIUS

There's really nothing else. It's just a huge space with a series of columns to hold the ceiling up, and periodically it fills with water.

VICKI

Let's go down.

PROCOPIUS

Couldn't we just wait out here?

VICKI

I want to see what she's doing. Come on!

CONTINUES INTO:

35: INT. BASILICA CISTERN [CONTINUOUS]

F/X VICKI AND PROCOPIUS CREEP DOWN THE STEPS. A BOAT CAN BE HEARD GOING ACROSS THE WATER. LOW VOICES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

VICKI

Why's she got a boat?

PROCOPIUS

Shh! Voices carry down here.

VICKI

Where is she going?

PROCOPIUS

Aha! Perhaps she's hidden something here.

VICKI

Aaah. In the water?

PROCOPIUS

Yes. Attached it to a weight of some kind and dropped it. It would be unlikely to be disturbed down here.

VICKI

Let's see what she brings up then.

PROCOPIUS

I would prefer to —

VICKI

She's stopped the boat — look.

SOPHIA

(LONG WAY OFF) Rynesh Quesh Ath Wentesh. Thyben Quesh Ash.

PROCOPIUS

What's she up to?

VICKI

Reading words from a parchment.

PROCOPIUS

... with a blue ribbon, I can see that. But what was she saying? It's no tongue I recognise.

VICKI

Me neither.

F/X CISTERN STARTS TO RUMBLE. VICKI AND PROCOPIUS STOP USING LOW VOICES.

VICKI

The whole place is shaking. Is it an earthquake?

PROCOPIUS

Something's rising up from the water – look, next to her boat!

F/X TWO LARGE CHUNKS OF STONE ARE INDEED RISING SLOWLY FROM THE WATER. THE CHAMBER IS TREMBLING LIKE AT THE END OF 'INDIANA JONES & THE LAST CRUSADE'.

VICKI

What's happening?

PROCOPIUS

It can't be... That's solid stone!

VICKI

What is?

PROCOPIUS

The columns that support the cistern were taken from other buildings, from many different places, and transported here. Two of them – those two, in fact – use as their bases giant stone heads carved with the face of Medusa. The builders thought they might protect the place from evil.

VICKI

Well they're not doing a very good job. How is she even doing that? Making them rise up out of the— I don't believe it! They're hovering above the water now!

F/X THE HUGE CHUNKS OF STONE HAVE RISEN FULLY FROM THE WATER AND BEGIN TO FLY TOWARDS VICKI AND PROCOPIUS. THEY RUMBLE/HUM VERY SLIGHTLY, SO YOU CAN HEAR THEM APPROACH.

PROCOPIUS

They're flying! But that's impossible.

VICKI

Impossible or not, they're coming this way! Back up the steps! Come on –

F/X VICKI AND PROCOPIUS RUN BACK UP THE STEPS. CONTINUES INTO:

36: EXT. BASILICA CISTERN

F/X VICKI AND PROCOPIUS RUN FROM THE BUILDING AND PAUSE,
PANTING.

VICKI
Are they following us?

PROCOPIUS
I don't think so. I can't see them.

VICKI
Did she make that happen? How? Why?

PROCOPIUS
Perhaps she's a witch. There are tales of-

F/X THE TWO CHUNKS OF STONE FLY THROUGH THE DOOR - WHICH IS
NOT WIDE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE THEM, SO IT BREAKS AS THEY GO.
SPLINTERS OF WOOD & CHIPS OF STONE EXPLODE OUTWARD.

VICKI
They're coming!

PROCOPIUS
We'll never outrun them!

VICKI
Then let's not try. Into that ditch - quickly!

F/X VICKI AND PROCOPIUS DIVE INTO A DITCH, SCRAPING KNEES. THE
STONES SWOOP ABOVE THEIR HEADS, APPARENTLY ABLE TO FLY THROUGH
THE AIR. VICKI AND PROCOPIUS PICK THEMSELVES UP.

VICKI
They're really flying. How are they flying?

PROCOPIUS
I feel like I understand less and less every hour.

VICKI
We need the Doctor.

PROCOPIUS
But he's locked up.

VICKI
Even locked up, he's still more useful than anyone else we
might find round here. Come on!

F/X THEY RUN OFF.

37: INT. CELLS

F/X CHAINS CLANK WITH DOCTOR'S MOVEMENTS.

DOCTOR

General Belisarius – I told you to return here as the Emperor said and deal with the threat from Persia. Now, why would I do that if I was spying for them?

BELISARIUS

Perhaps now's a good time for them to fight us.

DOCTOR

If I'm any sort of a spy I'd have told them it isn't! You've just bolstered your army with prisoners from your Italian conquests, and if I'd convinced you to stay in Italy, attacking Constantinople from the east would've been that much easier.

BELISARIUS

All right – look, I think you're probably telling the truth.

DOCTOR

Thank you.

BELISARIUS

But what can I do? The Emperor feels he has evidence.

DOCTOR

There can be no evidence. I haven't even been here long enough to leave any [evidence –]

F/X CELL DOOR UNLOCKED, VICKI AND PROCOPIUS RUSH IN.

VICKI

Doctor!

BELISARIUS

Excuse me, I was in the middle of [talking to –]

PROCOPIUS

Belisarius, this is an emergency.

BELISARIUS

Yes. Obviously.

DOCTOR

What is it, Vicki?

VICKI

We followed Sophia, and she went to the Basilica, and she chanted and these two stone heads –

DOCTOR

The Medusa heads?

VICKI

(SURPRISED) Yes. How did you know about the-? (BACK TO THE STORY:) Anyway, they rose up out of the water and started flying, and they broke out of the Basilica and - please, Belisarius, you have to let the Doctor out so he can help.

BELISARIUS

(LAUGHS) Ridiculous!

VICKI

Please!

BELISARIUS

You think you can walk in here with an absurd story like that and secure his freedom?

DOCTOR

I've seen far, far stranger things than that, Belisarius - believe me.

PROCOPIUS

It is absurd, General, but I saw it with my own eyes.

BELISARIUS

What are you getting from this, Procopius?

PROCOPIUS

Me? Nothing, [I -]

F/X DISTANT SOUNDS OF COMMOTION FROM THE PALACE.

BELISARIUS

What's going on out there?

VICKI

Maybe they're here.

BELISARIUS

Who?

VICKI

The heads.

PROCOPIUS

They've come to the palace. They mean to attack the Emperor.

F/X VICKI HAMMERS ON THE DOOR.

VICKI

Gaoler! Let us out – we have to go to the palace!

PROCOPIUS

'We' have to go?

VICKI

I have to. I don't know about you. (EXITS)

PROCOPIUS

If I must... (EXITS)

DOCTOR

Shouldn't you go too, General?

BELISARIUS

Only to prove my secretary deluded. I don't believe any of this. (EXITS)

F/X DOOR SLAMS.

38: INT. HIPPODROME

F/X DOOR OPENS, MONK ENTERS.

YAZID

Ah! Quintus. (COUGHS)

MONK

I came as quickly as I could, Yazid.

F/X THEY WALK THROUGH THE BUILDING TOGETHER.

YAZID

My employees are dropping like flies. You must get them back on their feet, or the race tomorrow... well, it'll be difficult. You can do something for them? Yes?

MONK

I'll have to see them first.

STEVEN

(PAINTING) Hello, Quintus.

MONK

Steven! He's working you hard, then?

STEVEN

Yes, he's got me on painting duties now.

YAZID

There's no time for chit-chat.

MONK

You haven't come down with this illness, have you?

STEVEN

No. That's why you're here?

MONK

I'm afraid so.

YAZID

Two of my charioteers plus the chief mechanic and the bear-wrangler have got it now. I need them fit and well by tomorrow.

STEVEN

Listen, everyone I've seen needs at least three days' complete rest.

YAZID

I didn't ask you.

MONK

I'll do my best, but you have to understand... I can't work miracles.

39: INT. PALACE — CORRIDOR

F/X BELISARIUS MARCHES THROUGH CORRIDORS, FOLLOWED BY VICKI AND PROCOPIUS.

BELISARIUS

Extraordinary. The palace guards have deserted their posts.

VICKI

Perhaps they saw something that frightened them, General?

PROCOPIUS

Wouldn't we know, if they were here? I mean they are quite large.

VICKI

They're only about your height, Procopius, they could hide in a corner of a palace this size.

PROCOPIUS

They seemed bigger when we saw them outside [the Basilica —]

BELISARIUS

Are you trying to make a fool of me? Is that it?

VICKI

Why would we want that?

BELISARIUS

I don't know, but with all this talk of flying Medusae —

VICKI

You'll see.

BELISARIUS

Young lady, I've travelled far and wide. Further and wider than you.

VICKI

Haha! Oh, I wish you knew how funny that was.

BELISARIUS

And the tales men tell of monsters, every single one of them, are complete —

F/X SCREAM FROM OFF.

VICKI

You were saying?

F/X THEY RUN. CROSS TO:

40: INT. PALACE – ANOTHER CORRIDOR

F/X BELISARIUS RUSHES IN, FOLLOWED BY VICKI AND PROCOPIUS. A SLAVE IS WHIMPERING.

VICKI

Is he a palace guard?

BELISARIUS

No, just one of the slaves. (TO SLAVE) What did you see, man?

SLAVE

Stone... heads of stone...

PROCOPIUS

See? It's true! I told you –

BELISARIUS

But we heard nothing.

VICKI

What sort of noise do you expect a flying stone head to make? They didn't make a lot of noise when they went past us – just a sort of "whoosh", and if they're moving more slowly they [could easily –]

PROCOPIUS

Behind you! There it is!

BELISARIUS

What's behind –

F/X SWISH! AS A STONE HEAD FLIES PAST THEM.

BELISARIUS

Argh!

F/X BELISARIUS STUMBLES BACK AS THE HEAD FLIES OUT AND DOWN THE CORRIDOR. DISTANT YELPS AND SHRIEKS OF SURPRISE.

BELISARIUS

What – but – that was –

VICKI

Yeah, that was the thing we've been telling you about for the last fifteen minutes.

BELISARIUS

Have I been poisoned?

PROCOPIUS

No – we saw it too.

VICKI

Oh, he's no use — let's get after it ourselves.

F/X VICKI STRIDES FROM THE ROOM.

41: INT. MONK'S HOUSE

F/X MONK IS TINKERING WITH ELECTRONICS. LITTLE Bleeps. THE OCCASIONAL HUM OF A LASER SOLDERING IRON. SOPHIA ENTERS.

MONK

(BREAKS OFF WITH THE LASER) Ah, Sophia! Sorry the house is a mess – just move that if you want to sit down.

SOPHIA

What is all this, Quintus? Where did it come from?

MONK

I'm just building something using parts from my ship and some other bits and pieces I've picked up.

SOPHIA

What is it?

MONK

Haha! You'll see.

SOPHIA

More of your magic.

MONK

There is no magic, Sophia. Like those words I gave you to say in the Basilica – to the people of this planet in this era, it sounds like a magical incantation.

SOPHIA

But it isn't?

MONK

Good grief, no! It's a simple linguistic keycode. (BEAT) It did work, didn't it?

SOPHIA

Oh yes, it worked.

MONK

The Ostardi are free?

SOPHIA

If that's what they're called. I must admit, I wasn't... fully prepared for that.

MONK

That isn't their natural state. They were exiled here, and their form blended into the world around them.

SOPHIA

I think there was someone there, at the Basilica. When the Ostardi rose up, I heard people running out. I didn't see who it was —

MONK

Doesn't matter.

F/X: MONK RESUMES TINKERING.

SOPHIA

But what if they try to stop us?

MONK

They can't.

F/X: THE LASER SOLDER HUMS AGAIN.

42: INT. PALACE (DINING ROOM)

F/X THEODORA IS ASLEEP.

JUSTINIAN

(HUSHED) Did you hear that noise? Theodora? (CLAPS HANDS)
Beloved!

THEODORA

(WAKING UP) Is it morning?

JUSTINIAN

No.

THEODORA

For heaven's sake, Justinian, go to bed..

JUSTINIAN

Why don't you go to bed? Instead of falling asleep in the dining room. Again.

THEODORA

I am the Empress and I will sleep where I like.

JUSTINIAN

There was shouting. From the other end of the palace.

THEODORA

Perhaps one of the servants dropped something.

JUSTINIAN

Not that sort of shouting, it was –

F/X CRASH AS ONE OF THE STONE HEADS BREAKS THROUGH THE DOORS AND ENTERS THE ROOM.

JUSTINIAN

Agh!

THEODORA

It's a... head!

JUSTINIAN

A flying head! A flying stone –

OSTARDI #1

You.

JUSTINIAN

Me?

THEODORA

What's happening? What does it want?

OSTARDI #1

We are looking for you.

JUSTINIAN

Why? Why would you – Get away. No!

F/X: JUSTINIAN KNOCKS OVER METAL DISHES AS HE BACKS AWAY FROM THE OSTARDI. THE STONE FOLLOWS.

OSTARDI #1

We are looking for you.

JUSTINIAN

(RETREATING) Leave me alone! It's got me cornered! Theodora, help me! Help –

THEODORA

I'm sorry. I can't. I –

OSTARDI #1

You. You. You.

F/X THE STONE HEAD LOOMS & DESCENDS OVER JUSTINIAN'S HEAD.

JUSTINIAN

(BECOMING ENVELOPED BY THE HEAD) No! Don't! Get off me! Theodora!

F/X THE STONE HEAD RUMBLES & CHANGES ITS SHAPE AS IT MOULDS ITSELF TO JUSTINIAN'S HEAD.

THEODORA

The... um... the guards. Yes, I'll– Farewell. (RUSHES OUT)

JUSTINIAN

Don't leave me! Theodoraaaaaaaaaaaaa-!!!

43: INT. PALACE – CORRIDOR

F/X THEODORA RUNS DOWN THE CORRIDOR, PANICKING. SHE RUNS INTO VICKI AND PROCOPIUS.

PROCOPIUS

Your majesty! Are you all right?

THEODORA

Something... something came and – the Emperor –

VICKI

A giant stone head? Is that what came?

THEODORA

Yes and – (DISDAIN) Who is this?

VICKI

My name is Vicki and kindly don't address me like I'm something the cat dragged in.

THEODORA

I will not be spoken [to –]

PROCOPIUS

Please! You said the Emperor –

THEODORA

Yes, yes, a stone head.

VICKI

We know that bit. What did the stone head do?

THEODORA

It flew into the room, and it got Justinian into the corner... and then it seemed to float down, onto his head, and it... changed shape, and seemed to... become his head. I don't know, it doesn't [seem –]

F/X JUSTINIAN ENTERS. HE IS VERY CALM.

JUSTINIAN

Is something the matter?

THEODORA

Beloved! But the head – the stone head...

JUSTINIAN

Stone head?

THEODORA

I saw it...

JUSTINIAN

I came upon you in the dining room. You'd taken your fill of wine and cheese and fallen asleep on a seat... the dreams one dreams after such a meal can be vivid indeed.

THEODORA

Oh. A dream. Yes, that must have been-

VICKI

But we [saw it too-]

PROCOPIUS

Vicki... the Emperor knows best.

VICKI

But -

PROCOPIUS

Come on. (TO JUSTINIAN) Good night, your highness. Empress.

F/X PROCOPIUS LEADS VICKI AWAY.

THEODORA

Yes. Yes, I'm sure... a dream. Yes.

JUSTINIAN

Of course it was. Let me lead you to your room.

44: INT. PALACE CORRIDOR

F/X PROCOPIUS AND VICKI WALK TOWARDS BELISARIUS.

BELISARIUS

Procopius! Did you find it?

PROCOPIUS

(LOUDLY) No, Belisarius.

VICKI

But it found –

PROCOPIUS

(LOW) Let's not discuss it here, Vicki.

VICKI

What? But the Emperor –

PROCOPIUS

The Emperor said everything was fine.

BELISARIUS

(REALISING IT'S NOT FINE) Did he now.

PROCOPIUS

So there's nothing more for us to do.

VICKI

But those –

PROCOPIUS

(LOW) Yet.

BELISARIUS

We'll meet again in the morning. Vicki, you're to stay at my house.

VICKI

(SIGHS) All right.

BELISARIUS

Cheer up. I have a very nice house.

45: INT. MONK'S HOUSE

F/X MONK TESTING HIS DEVICE. BLEEP.

MONK

Haha! It works, Sophia. It works!

SOPHIA

But... can you make it work with people...?

MONK

Of course. All I need you to do is hold open the hole in space-time [and then -]

SOPHIA

I'm not sure I can.

MONK

Nonsense. You've done it hundreds of times. It's why everyone in your village thought you were peculiar, all those objects disappearing into thin air and reappearing.

SOPHIA

But under pressure - I've always had trouble controlling it.

MONK

Have faith in yourself.

SOPHIA

But how will you get the Doctor where you want him?

MONK

Our friends the Ostardi will take care of that. Once the Emperor and Empress are under their control, that is...

46: INT. THEODORA'S ROOM

F/X THEODORA ENTERS, GUIDED BY JUSTINIAN.

THEODORA

I've been working too hard. Getting up too early.

JUSTINIAN

Of course you have. Now, beloved, here's your bed. Rest.

THEODORA

Yes. Yes, I'll —

F/X THE OTHER STONE HEAD CRASHES THROUGH THE DOOR.

THEODORA

(CRIES OUT) Justinian! The head!

OSTARDI #2

You. We need you.

THEODORA

No!

OSTARDI #2

We will be you. You. You. You.

F/X: THE HEAD DESCENDS.

THEODORA

Keep back! — No! No! (THE HEAD CHANGES SHAPE AS BEFORE.)
Noooo...!!!

JUSTINIAN

(LAUGHS, POSSESSED)

END OF PART TWO

3: THE CATASTROPHE CURE

(NO REPRISE)

47: INT. HIPPODROME (OFFICE)

F/X STEVEN IS ASLEEP. WE HEAR YAZID COUGHING AS HE APPROACHES. THE WOODEN DOOR OPENS.

YAZID

Wake up. (BEAT; COUGHS; LOUDER) Wake up! (BEAT; LOUDER STILL)
Wake... up!

STEVEN

(SUDDENLY AWAKE) What? – Oh, Yazid, it's you. You said it was OK for me to sleep in your office, remember?

YAZID

Steven, I have an- (COUGHS) another little job for you.

STEVEN

I was going to put another coat of paint on the wheels.

YAZID

I've seen them. They'll have to do. Tell me: have you ridden a chariot before?

STEVEN

A chariot?

YAZID

Well, have you or haven't you? Could be worth a few extra coins...

STEVEN

(LYING) Yes.

YAZID

Where?

STEVEN

In, er – in Italy.

YAZID

Ha! What they have there isn't racing, it's a canter round the park with a lady friend. But you know the basics?

STEVEN

It's been a while, I'm a little rusty, but –

YAZID

Then you've got seven hours to make yourself less rusty. You're riding second chariot today.

STEVEN

What? I need more time. Couldn't we just—

YAZID

No.

STEVEN

Is there no-one else?

YAZID

Plenty of men in this city would kill for an opportunity like this.

STEVEN

Then where are they?

YAZID

(SIGHS) A lot of money's been bet on this race. But due to illness my team consists of my second charioteer racing first, and a novice. And people are going to be very angry with the drivers who lost their money. That is why I'm asking you. So?

STEVEN

(BEAT) I'll do it —

YAZID

Excellent.

STEVEN

If you pay my passage back to Ravenna, in full.

YAZID

No. I said a few extra coins. You think I'm made of money?

STEVEN

I'll go back to painting wheels then shall I?

YAZID

All right, all right. Although after you lose, you might want to run straight out of here and get on the boat.

48: INT. CELLS

F/X AGAIN, CHAINS WHEN DOCTOR MOVES.

VICKI

Do you know what these stone creatures are, Doctor?

DOCTOR

No idea, I'm afraid.

PROCOPIUS

The puzzling thing was how Justinian denied they were there. We all saw them. He didn't even seem interested.

VICKI

Yes, I've been thinking about that. Either he's the one who brought them here -

PROCOPIUS

He's been known to make deals with outsiders - but flying Medusae?

VICKI

Or... they've gained some kind of control over him.

DOCTOR

It's possible. There are beings out there that are capable of gaining control over any one of us.

PROCOPIUS

You mean - the Emperor's will might not be his own?

DOCTOR

Exactly that.

VICKI

How would we be able to tell if he was being controlled?

F/X CELL DOOR OPENED. BELISARIUS ENTERS.

BELISARIUS

Good news, Doctor, you're free to go.

DOCTOR

Why?

BELISARIUS

I wouldn't query it, I'd just get out before the Emperor changes his mind.

DOCTOR

Justinian told you to set me free?

BELISARIUS

He said he'd re-examined the evidence against you and decided it didn't hold up. Here (A JANGLE OF A KEY ON A METAL RING) - the key to your manacles. (TOSSES KEY)

DOCTOR

(CATCHES KEY) Thank you.

F/X BEGINS UNLOCKING MANACLES.

VICKI

Surely that proves it, if he's suddenly changed his mind about something so important...?

BELISARIUS

Proves what?

PROCOPIUS

We think the Emperor... we think he may be under the control of those monsters we saw last night.

BELISARIUS

Hm.

F/X DOCTOR REMOVES MANACLES.

DOCTOR

Oh, that's better. - General. Please don't tell me that what you all saw was some shared delusion?

BELISARIUS

I am not deluded, Doctor!

VICKI

Well, then.

BELISARIUS

I'm pledged to protect the Empire from danger. But what happened last night is nothing I understand.

DOCTOR

Whoever had me imprisoned wanted to make sure I didn't interfere with these creatures taking control of the Emperor - who, may I remind you all, is currently the most powerful person in the world.

BELISARIUS

Then why let you go now?

VICKI

Yes, it would've been easy enough to just leave you down here.

DOCTOR

Good point. If only we knew what he was up to.

PROCOPIUS

I do. As a matter of fact, it so happens that the Emperor is going to announce the action against Persia at this afternoon's chariot race..

VICKI

(THRILLED) Chariot race! – Oh Doctor, can we go?

DOCTOR

We should really be looking for Steven.

BELISARIUS

Ah yes – I made some enquiries and a man matching your friend's description arrived with the injured and captured from Ravenna – but he was released upon arrival in Constantinople.

DOCTOR

Why?

BELISARIUS

Someone on the same boat vouched for him. Medical man, name of Quintus..

PROCOPIUS

Quintus? I know the fellow. He lives in Constantinople. I should have his address in my records.

DOCTOR

Then we'll go right away.

BELISARIUS

Not yet, Doctor – Justinian wants to apologise to you personally for your false imprisonment.

PROCOPIUS

Now that is out of character.

DOCTOR

Still, an audience with the Emperor would be helpful. – Vicki, would you go with Procopius and follow up this lead on Steven?

VICKI

Of course.

49: EXT. HIPPODROME (TRACK)

F/X STEVEN IS RIDING A CHARIOT.

STEVEN

Woah. Woah! (BEAT) I said WOAH!

F/X STEVEN YANKS ON THE REINS, THE CHARIOT SLOWS DOWN.

STEVEN

(TO SELF) All right. I'm getting the hang of this. I hope.

F/X HORSE NEIGHS. MONK CALLS, FROM OFF:

MONK

(OFF) Very impressive.

F/X MONK WALKS OVER.

STEVEN

Oh, Quintus!

F/X STEVEN JUMPS OFF THE CHARIOT.

MONK

Very impressive indeed. For a beginner.

STEVEN

(LOW) Is it that obvious?

MONK

Well...

STEVEN

(LOW) Don't tell Yazid. He thinks I know what I'm doing.

MONK

My lips are sealed.

STEVEN

What are you doing here? Checking up on your patients?

MONK

Yes. I'm afraid the infection is spreading. It's very severe.

STEVEN

You mean - ?

MONK

At least two of them won't last until tomorrow.

STEVEN

That bad? Surely they can't hold a race with all that going on.

MONK

When there's money to be won they will.

STEVEN

But there's hardly anyone left to run it - and bringing thousands of people here when there's a deadly infection spreading?

MONK

If they cancel it, there'll be riots.

STEVEN

Is that worse than...

MONK

Plague? No, probably not.

STEVEN

Plague? Really?

MONK

I've set up a treatment room near the stables - I don't think they're well enough to move. You're sure you're all right?

STEVEN

Yes. I almost wish I wasn't. Then I could get out of this race.

50: INT. PALACE

F/X DOCTOR AND BELISARIUS ENTER. WE ARE WITH JUSTINIAN & THEODORA. THE OTHERS ENTER & APPROACH.

BELISARIUS
Your majesties, may I present [the –]

JUSTINIAN
Is this him? The Doctor?

DOCTOR
Yes. Hello.

THEODORA
We apologise most humbly for detaining you unjustly, Doctor.

DOCTOR
That's quite all right. It happens to me regularly, although almost nobody ever says sorry.

BELISARIUS
May we know who accused the Doctor of spying?

JUSTINIAN
I'm afraid not.

THEODORA
The person who provided us with this information did so in good faith – to expose him would be unfair.

BELISARIUS
So... you are in accord on this issue.

JUSTINIAN
Of course.

THEODORA
Please, Doctor – we've treated you abominably. Allow us to amend an injustice with a kindness. You must accompany us to the chariot race. You can sit with us, in the imperial box.

DOCTOR
I'd be honoured.

BELISARIUS
Your majesties – I'm concerned that the race might not go ahead.

JUSTINIAN
Why?

BELISARIUS

I've heard tell of an illness affecting many of those who work at the Hippodrome.

DOCTOR

I should get over there. I can help.

JUSTINIAN

Can you? You are a physician?

DOCTOR

Not exactly. But it's safe to say my experience of disease is probably broader than anyone you have available.

51: EXT/INT. MONK'S HOUSE

F/X IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF CONSTANTINOPLE. OUR HEROS ARE WALKING.

PROCOPIUS

I've not actually been here before. I tend to avoid doctors, if I can.

VICKI

Very wise.

PROCOPIUS

(STOPPING BEFORE A DOOR) Ah! This must be it – (READS) 'The house of Quintus. Medicus to the maximus.' Hmm. Rather odd.

VICKI

Gosh. He's not short of a bob or two. Here goes...

F/X KNOCK AT DOOR. IT OPENS...

SOPHIA

Vicki, hello.

VICKI

Sophia! What [are you-]

SOPHIA

How are you finding Constantinople?

VICKI

It's, er, marvellous.

SOPHIA

If you're after Quintus, he's not here right now.

PROCOPIUS

Perhaps we could come in. Thank you.

F/X THEY ENTER HALLWAY.

VICKI

Sophia – this Quintus, is he the friend you said you'd be staying with in Constantinople? The man who took you from your village?

SOPHIA

Yes.

F/X: SOPHIA CLOSES THE FRONT DOOR.

VICKI

It turns out he's also the man who found my friend Steven, and he treated his wounds on the way back to Constantinople. Didn't you realise he was in Ravenna at the same time as you?

SOPHIA

No. Not until I got back. Sorry.

VICKI

No need to apologise. It's a bit of a coincidence, that's all. — Ooh, is that a Grecian urn, on the table? How pretty!
(CROSSES TO TABLE)

SOPHIA

Please, be careful. All of these are Quintus' things.

PROCOPIUS

Should we wait here for him?

SOPHIA

I'm not sure when he'll be back. He's at the Hippodrome, you see.

PROCOPIUS

Did he go early to get a good seat for the races?

SOPHIA

There's been an outbreak of sickness, [I'm afraid]

F/X SMASH! VICKI KNOCKS OVER URN.

VICKI

Oh no! Butterfingers.

SOPHIA

I told you to be careful!

VICKI

I'm so sorry, was it very valuable?

PROCOPIUS

I doubt it. You get them by the dozen in the bazaar.

VICKI

I think we should go — don't you, Procopius?

PROCOPIUS

It's only a Grecian urn.

VICKI

We might catch Quintus at the races.

PROCOPIUS

But there's a whole hour before —

VICKI

(SHARPLY) Let's go, Procopius!

F/X VICKI BUSTLES PROCOPIUS OUT.

SOPHIA

Enjoy the race.

PROCOPIUS

Thank you!

F/X DOOR CLOSSES BEHIND SOPHIA; WE'RE OUTSIDE.

PROCOPIUS

Why did you hurry us away, Vicki?

VICKI

Because I took this from the side table. I smashed the urn so she wouldn't see me swipe it.

PROCOPIUS

A parchment?

VICKI

With a blue ribbon, see? It was just sitting there. Daft of her to leave it lying around.

PROCOPIUS

The parchment she read those words from last night. The ones that released those Medusa creatures!

VICKI

Exactly. I think the Doctor could use this.

F/X THEY WALK.

52: INT. HIPPODROME (OFFICE)

F/X CROWD HUBBUB CAN BE HEARD FROM OUTSIDE.

YAZID

How did the practice go, Steven? Managed to not kill yourself yet? (COUGHS)

STEVEN

Yazid? Are you all right?

YAZID

(COUGHS PROLIFICALLY) Fine, fine. Good crowd building up out there.

STEVEN

I was hoping to have another few runs around the track before the race.

YAZID

Too late for that now, not when the punters are in. You're clear on the strategy?

STEVEN

Yes, we've discussed it – Thebus is going to take the outside track, all I have to do is sit in the inside and block the others from coming through.

YAZID

Excellent.

STEVEN

It does sound rather dangerous.

YAZID

It is rather dangerous. What, are you afraid?

STEVEN

Well... yes, a bit.

YAZID

Then make sure you stay ahead – (COUGHS) ahead of (COUGHS REPEATEDLY)

STEVEN

Are you sure you're all right?

DOCTOR

(OFF) Steven!

STEVEN
Doctor?

F/X DOCTOR RACES OVER, FOLLOWED BY BELISARIUS.

STEVEN
Doctor! Am I glad to see you!

YAZID
Well I'm not. I don't need a doctor. It's just a cough.
(COUGHS)

DOCTOR
It's good to see you, Steven.

STEVEN
Likewise. I mean, I know my Doctor would try his best to find me, but – I couldn't be sure you'd be the same.

DOCTOR
I'm the same man, Steven. A friend of his is a friend of mine, literally.

BELISARIUS
This is your friend?

DOCTOR
It certainly is.

STEVEN
I can't believe it. You came all this way to Constantinople? How'd you know I was here? At the Hippodrome, I mean.

DOCTOR
I must admit, I didn't. Vicki's out looking for you, I came here to help with this illness.

BELISARIUS
Are you in the race today, young man?

STEVEN
Yes.

DOCTOR
You're chariot racing? What on earth for?

STEVEN
I took a job in the stables to pay my way back to Italy. But most of the team's gone down with this virus.

YAZID
Pathetic, isn't it? (COUGHS)

STEVEN

So, I'm racing instead. But now you're here, Doctor – I don't need the money, so maybe I could [just step –]

YAZID

You're not backing out now. Not if you like having five fingers on each hand. I hired you; you race. We had a deal.

STEVEN

All right. I'm going to get prepped for the race – but you need to get help. Medical help. Now.

YAZID

I don't need doctors – (COUGHS) I don't –

DOCTOR

I think you do.

STEVEN

Quintus has set up his clinic through there – down the hall, past the curtain.

DOCTOR

Good. Help me, Belisarius – that's where we need to take him.

BELISARIUS

I'd rather not touch him.

YAZID

I'm fine.

DOCTOR

Good luck, Steven.

STEVEN

Thanks, I'll need it.

53: EXT. HIPPODROME

F/X VICKI AND PROCOPIUS ARE OUTSIDE. AN EXCITED PRE-RACE CROWD ARE CHATTERING EXCITEDLY INSIDE.

VICKI

Please, Mr Guard. Let us inside the Hippodrome, just for a couple of minutes? It's terrible important. We're looking for a man named Quintus.

GUARD

Can't let anyone in this close to the race.

VICKI

We need to talk to him – it's the only way we'll find my friend. Look, at least tell us if he's in there.

PROCOPIUS

Vicki – let's go and watch the race, shall we? If Quintus is in there now, he'll probably still be there afterwards.

VICKI

(SIGHS) All right.

54: INT. HIPPODROME (CLINIC)

F/X SOUNDS OF ILLNESS. THE MONK HAS SET UP A MAKESHIFT CLINIC TO DEAL WITH THE SICK. DOCTOR AND BELISARIUS STRUGGLE THROUGH WITH YAZID.

BELISARIUS

So many! I didn't realise it was this bad.

YAZID

Urrrrrgh...

DOCTOR

Bad and getting worse. (CALLS) Excuse me? I say, excuse me?

MONK

Yes, Doctor?

DOCTOR

Do you have somewhere this chap can lie down? He needs urgent – Wait. 'Doctor'?

MONK

(GLEEFUL) Wait for what, Doctor? For the penny to drop? (WITH INCREASING BITTERNESS) For the dimensional circuit to repair itself? For the desolate ice world to thaw?

DOCTOR

It's you. Oh, no. You're 'Quintus'?

MONK

(CLAPS HANDS) Haha! The look on your face!

BELISARIUS

You know him?

DOCTOR

He looked different when we last met, but I'd know this fellow anywhere. He's the Monk.

MONK

You're the only one who calls me that, you know.

DOCTOR

Would you like me to use your real name?

MONK

No more than you'd like me to use yours.

BELISARIUS

He's a monk?

DOCTOR

Not a real one. In fact very little about him is genuine.

YAZID

It's so hot. I need water...

MONK

Bring him here.

DOCTOR

What are you playing at?

MONK

You can either stand there being suspicious, Doctor, or you can help. It's entirely up to you.

55: EXT. HIPPODROME (STANDS)

F/X HUGE, EAGER CROWD AROUND VICKI AND PROCOPIUS.

VICKI

It seems like everyone in the city's come to see the race.

PROCOPIUS

Mm. The races aren't what they used to be. Too much gamesmanship now, it used to be about skill.

VICKI

We'll never see the Doctor amongst this lot..

PROCOPIUS

He's supposed to be watching from the Imperial box. Over there.

F/X CROWD INCREASES IN VOLUME.

VICKI

They're coming out. Whoever 'they' are.

PROCOPIUS

The charioteers. Hmm. I don't recognise any of them. Must be this illness. Glad I didn't bet on it now.

VICKI

Steven!

PROCOPIUS

Where? In the crowd?

VICKI

No, in the chariot! (CALLS) Steven! Steven!

F/X CROWD AROUND HER STARTS CHANTING "STEVEN! STEVEN!"

VICKI

No, I didn't mean – Oh, what's the use.

PROCOPIUS

Why didn't say your friend was a chariot racer?!

VICKI

Because he isn't. (CROSS TO:)

56: INT. HIPPODROME (CLINIC)

F/X CROWD FROM SC. 55 IN BACKGROUND.

YAZID

(GROANS AND WHEEZES THROUGHOUT)

MONK

Doctor? There's a pestle and mortar just behind you, could you pass it please?

F/X DOCTOR PICKS UP A BOWL.

DOCTOR

What's in this? (SNIFFS) Mint?

MONK

For the nausea. Thank you.

F/X MONK GRINDS THE MINT SOME MORE.

DOCTOR

What good will that do? These people need antibiotics, not herbs: amino glycosides, tetracyclines, fluoro[quinolone-]

MONK

(LOW) Please, Doctor. Not so loud! My patients need all the hope they can get. (NORMAL) Open your mouth.

F/X YAZID IS FED SOME OF THE MINT.

MONK

I'm going to spread a little under your nose, too. The paste will help clear your lungs...

F/X HUGE CROWD CHEER FROM OUTSIDE.

BELISARIUS

The race is starting.

DOCTOR

Go and watch it if you like.

BELISARIUS

No, I'll stay here. How do you know this man?

DOCTOR

We're from the same place. Although what we're currently doing in the same place is a mystery. (A THOUGHT OCCURS TO HIM.) He's the one who had me arrested! (TO MONK) Aren't you? And you must have something to do with the incident at the palace last night.

BELISARIUS
Why must he?

DOCTOR
Because he's a meddler.

MONK
Unlike you, of course.

DOCTOR
I care about the consequences of my actions.

MONK
You think I don't? Now if you don't mind, I need to loosen the patient's clothes. He's burning up.

F/X YAZID'S CLOTHING IS PULLED ASIDE.

BELISARIUS
Ugh.

MONK
Yes, they're all presenting with sores like these.

DOCTOR
Are any septicaemic?

MONK
Only one or two so far, the rest are bubonic.

BELISARIUS
What are you talking about?

DOCTOR
Plague.

57: EXT. HIPPODROME (STANDS)

F/X CHARIOTS RACE PAST VICKI AND PROCOPIUS.

CROWD

(ROARS AND CHEERS FOR BLUE & GREEN THROUGHOUT)

VICKI

Come on, Steven!

PROCOPIUS

He's doing quite well.

VICKI

But he's miles behind the others. They're almost going to lap him.

PROCOPIUS

Exactly. He's going to hold that line, and then he'll do his best to block the opposition so his team-mate can come through.

VICKI

So what he's doing is actually good?

PROCOPIUS

Yes. They often get inexperienced drivers to do this because, well, they don't want to waste an experienced driver on it.

VICKI

Waste?

PROCOPIUS

It can be dangerous. But it's unlikely to go wrong, as long as he doesn't do anything rash..

VICKI

Oh dear. (SHOUTS) Be careful, Steven!

58: INT. HIPPODROME (CLINIC)

F/X SOUND OF THE CROWD STILL AUDIBLE IN HERE.

DOCTOR

The first cases of plague in Constantinople aren't supposed to be recorded for another year.

BELISARIUS

What do you mean, supposed to be?

DOCTOR

It's difficult to explain. It's... (SIGHS) a prophecy.

MONK

(CHUCKLES) Oh dear, oh dear.

BELISARIUS

I didn't think you believed in such things, Doctor.

DOCTOR

This one is very well founded. It will cripple Constantinople – at its peak, five thousand people will die every day. The Emperor himself will catch it, [but –]

BELISARIUS

The Emperor?

DOCTOR

He'll survive, don't worry. But it will damage your efforts to reunify the Empire – your armies and supply lines will be seriously depleted. And I'd like to know why is it here a year early?

MONK

Sometimes the history books are wrong, Doctor. The date of the Plagues of Justinian isn't precise. It could have happened now. It is happening now.

YAZID

(GROANS)

MONK

Relax, relax.

DOCTOR

What are you giving him now?

MONK

Rosewater, lavender and sage.

BELISARIUS

Will that help?

DOCTOR

Barely.

MONK

It'll ease his headache, help him rest.

DOCTOR

And that's it?

MONK

It's better treatment than he'll get from the other physicians around here, with their purgatives and bleedings. The best we can do is make him comfortable and give his own immune system a chance to fight off the infection.

DOCTOR

Even then, his chance is fifty-fifty at best.

MONK

You think I should use anti-inflammatories? Antibiotics? I haven't got any. (RUMMAGES IN HIS CLOTHING) See: empty pock[ets]- (FINDS SOMETHING) Hang about. What's this? Well, well. A tube of Nanosalve.

DOCTOR

Nanosalve?

MONK

Why, this could cure our patient in a matter of minutes.

DOCTOR

Are you going to use it?

MONK

No. But you could.

DOCTOR

But... once that stuff gets into someone's body -

MONK

It becomes a permanent part of their immune system, yes. And it spreads on contact to stop the infection.

DOCTOR

That would change the world.

MONK

Yes, it would.

DOCTOR

Why are you doing this?

MONK

I'm just making a point.

DOCTOR

With a man dying in front of you.

MONK

Which goes to show what a powerful point it is.

BELISARIUS

Doctor, is he saying... you could save this man's life?

DOCTOR

I'm afraid so.

BELISARIUS

Afraid? What are you afraid of?

DOCTOR

Everything. Don't you see – it would change everything.

59: EXT. HIPPODROME (STANDS)

F/X CHARIOT RACE CONTINUES.

CROWD

(ROARS AND CHEERS FOR BLUE & GREEN THROUGHOUT)

PROCOPIUS

One lap to go! (SHOUTS) Come on, Blues!

VICKI

They're going to win! Steven's team is going to win!

PROCOPIUS

No, the Greens aren't done yet – they'll try to get past your friend somehow.

VICKI

Come on, Steven! (BEAT) And be careful!

CROSS DIRECTLY TO:

60: EXT. HIPPODROME (TRACK) [CONTINUOUS]

F/X DOWN ON THE TRACK, STEVEN IS RACING, TRYING TO KEEP HIS CHARIOT ON COURSE.

STEVEN

Oh, no you don't, matey -

F/X STEVEN PULLS THE REINS ROUND.

STEVEN

Haha! You shall not pass!

F/X SOMETHING KNOCKS INTO HIS CHARIOT FROM BEHIND.

STEVEN

Whoa! - What d'you think you're playing at, you lunatic?!

CROSS DIRECTLY TO:

61: EXT. HIPPODROME (STANDS) [CONTINUOUS]

CROWD

(ROARS CONTINUE)

PROCOPIUS

The green driver's trying to turn him over! Knock Steven out of his own chariot.

VICKI

But he mustn't!

62: EXT. HIPPODROME (TRACK) [CONTINUOUS]

F/X STEVEN'S CHARIOT CHARGED FROM BEHIND AGAIN.

STEVEN

Uff! — Maniac! You nearly killed [me]!

F/X AGAIN, THE CHARIOT IS BUMPED — AND THIS TIME IT TOPPLES OVER.

STEVEN

Aaaaagh!

F/X STEVEN TUMBLES OUT OF HIS CHARIOT AS HORSES THUNDER PAST.

CROSS DIRECTLY TO:

63: EXT. HIPPODROME (STANDS) [CONTINUOUS]

F/X BACK TO THE CROWD. GASPS AND EXCITEMENT AT WHAT THEY'RE SEEING.

VICKI

Steven! He's fallen — Steven!!

PROCOPIUS

Vicki, no — you can't go down there, it isn't safe.

VICKI

Procopius, let me go!

F/X VICKI FIGHTS HER WAY THROUGH THE CROWD. HUGE CHEER GOES UP AS THE WINNER CROSSES THE LINE.

CROSS DIRECTLY TO:

64: EXT. HIPPODROME (TRACK) [CONTINUOUS]

F/X A DAZED, BRUISED STEVEN LIES ON THE TRACK. VICKI RUNS OVER TO HIM.

STEVEN
(GROANS)

VICKI
(OFF) Out of my way. Please! – (RUNNING UP) Steven! Steven!

STEVEN
Vicki? – Vicki, it's you!

VICKI
Oh, you're all right! I came all this way to find you, and I thought you'd died right in front of me!

STEVEN
I'm fine, I'm – What happened?

VICKI
You were trying to stop one of the other drivers from manoeuvring past you, and it came up on the inside and knocked you [flying –]

STEVEN
I mean, which team won?

VICKI
Who cares which team won?

F/X PROCOPIUS IS FOLLOWING VICKI OVER TO STEVEN.

PROCOPIUS
Yours did. Now can we please get off the track?

STEVEN
Sure – can you help me stand –

F/X STEVEN TRIES TO STAND.

STEVEN
Argh!

VICKI
Your leg?

STEVEN
Yes – I think it's broken.

65: INT. HIPPODROME (CLINIC)

F/X CROWD STILL AUDIBLE IN HERE.

YAZID
(GROANS)

BELISARIUS
If you don't use this 'Nanny-salve', Doctor, I will. (REACHES FOR TUBE)

MONK
(SNATCHES TUBE AWAY) Uh, uh, uh! – I want to see the Doctor do it.

DOCTOR
Why? Because then I'll be as bad as you?

MONK
Doctor, you interfere in history all the time.

DOCTOR
Only when it would change history if I didn't interfere. Do you know how many times I've landed in a place, known that the ancient menace that lurks there isn't supposed to rise up and conquer the galaxy, and it's up to me to stop it? And that if I fail, the timelines will be skewed out of all recognition?

MONK
Poor Doctor, the weight of the universe on his shoulders.

DOCTOR
I can't use that – I just can't. The consequences –

YAZID
(DEATH RATTLE)

MONK
Are academic now. The man Yazid... is dead.

BELISARIUS
Could you really have saved him?

DOCTOR
You think I didn't want to? This is technology you're not ready for – I'm not going to be so irresponsible as to –

F/X PROCOPIUS RUSHES IN.

PROCOPIUS

Help! We need help on the track. (SEEING THE DOCTOR) Ah,
Doctor! Your friend - the charioteer - he's injured.

DOCTOR

Steven?

F/X DOCTOR RUSHES FROM THE ROOM.

66: EXT. HIPPODROME (TRACK)

F/X CROWD STILL EXCITED AFTER THE RACE, BUT VICKI AND STEVEN STILL ON THE TRACK.

STEVEN
(WINCE)

VICKI
Try not to move, Steven.

F/X DOCTOR RUSHES OVER.

DOCTOR
Steven! – Vicki, is he all right?

VICKI
He's broken his leg.

DOCTOR
Let's have a look.

F/X DOCTOR EXAMINES HIM.

STEVEN
(WINCE)

DOCTOR
Sorry.

STEVEN
What do you think?

DOCTOR
It is broken, I'm afraid. And it's broken in a bad place.

STEVEN
What, you mean the ankle?

DOCTOR
No, I mean sixth-century Constantinople. We're hundreds of miles from the TARDIS, and our access to medicine is very, very limited indeed.

STEVEN
Get my friend Quintus out here. He's treating the sick in that low building over there.

DOCTOR
Ah. I'm afraid Quintus is... well, he's isn't Quintus. And he isn't your friend.

STEVEN

What are you talking about? If Quintus isn't Quintus, who is he?

DOCTOR

He's the Monk.

STEVEN

The Monk!

VICKI

The Monk Monk? He's here?

STEVEN

You're joking. But he doesn't look [anything like -]

DOCTOR

He can change his appearance, just as I can.

STEVEN

And he let me think he was - ohh, wait until I get my hands on him...!

VICKI

Later, Steven - you're in no fit state now.

STEVEN

I can't believe this.

F/X BELISARIUS AND PROCOPIUS JOIN THEM.

BELISARIUS

Is he all right?

DOCTOR

Ah! Belisarius - we need a stretcher for Steven.

BELISARIUS

I'll gather some men to help carry him.

DOCTOR

And Procopius - could you fetch some water and sour wine, so I can clean the wound?

PROCOPIUS

Of course.

F/X BELISARIUS AND PROCOPIUS LEAVE.

VICKI

Doctor - I know you're busy with Steven now, but look - we found this parchment.

F/X VICKI HANDS THE DOCTOR A PIECE OF PAPER.

DOCTOR

What about it?

VICKI

It's what Sophia used to release those stone heads. I saw her reading from it at the Basilica.

DOCTOR

It's a verbal key. Normally these wouldn't be written down, they'd be memorised – the Monk must have cracked this one and then scribbled it down for Sophia.

VICKI

Is it useful?

DOCTOR

Oh yes – I can easily adapt this to reverse the process, just like a normal key – one way to lock, the other way to unlock. Well done, Vicki!

67: EXT. HIPPODROME (IMPERIAL BOX)

NB: JUSTINIAN & THEODORA ARE POSSESSED BY THE OSTARDI.

JUSTINIAN

A most entertaining race.

THEODORA

I think they're expecting you to speak now.

JUSTINIAN

I wonder how they'll react?

THEODORA

Tell them and see.

F/X JUSTINIAN GETS TO HIS FEET. CROWD SETTLES.

JUSTINIAN

People of Constantinople! We have an announcement to make.
(MUTTERINGS FROM THE CROWD) You may have heard of the
successful completion of our military activities in Italy
(ROUSING CHEERS FROM THE CROWD), for which we congratulate our
general, Belisarius. (MORE CHEERS FROM THE CROWD) We feel this
is a fitting final campaign for the army of the Roman Empire,
which is to be disbanded with immediate effect.

CROWD

(CONSTERNATION SPREADS)

CROSS DIRECTLY TO:

68: INT. HIPPODROME (TRACK) [CONTINUOUS]

F/X BACK WITH DOCTOR AND CO.

DOCTOR

What did he say? I couldn't hear.

VICKI

Me neither.

DOCTOR

Ah - Belisarius is coming back with the stretcher.

STEVEN

Good.

F/X BELISARIUS RETURNS.

BELISARIUS

Did you hear that?

VICKI

What did he say?

BELISARIUS

He's disbanding the army.

DOCTOR

What? What are they doing?

BELISARIUS

I'm about to go up there and ask the Emperor that.

DOCTOR

I'm coming with you.

VICKI

And me.

F/X THEY ALL DASH AWAY.

STEVEN

I'll just lie here then, shall I?

69: INT. HIPPODROME (CLINIC)

PLAGUE VICTIMS
(MORTAL GROANS)

F/X CURTAIN — SOPHIA ENTERS.

MONK

Ah! Sophia. Did the girl Vicki take the key?

SOPHIA

Yes, I made sure to leave it out. Did the Doctor use your nanothing?

MONK

No, but I knew he wouldn't. We should get into position.

SOPHIA

What about these people?

MONK

Oh, there's nothing I can do for them now. In a few minutes it won't even matter.

70: EXT. HIPPODROME (IMPERIAL BOX)

F/X COMMOTION AMONG THE PEOPLE.

NB: JUSTINIAN & THEODORA ARE POSSESSED BY THE OSTARDI.

THEODORA

You'd think they'd be more pleased you're disbanding the army. I mean, a lot of people do die in all those wars they insist on having.

JUSTINIAN

Give them time to get used to the idea.

F/X BELISARIUS FIGHTS HIS WAY OVER TO THEM, FOLLOWED BY THE DOCTOR AND VICKI.

BELISARIUS

Justinian? What's the meaning of this?

DOCTOR

Careful, Belisarius – we don't know what they can do.

VICKI

(SOTTO) Doctor, use the key!

DOCTOR

(SOTTO) Not yet, Vicki.

JUSTINIAN

No more wars.

THEODORA.

An age of peace.

BELISARIUS

But the campaign in Persia is [about to –]

THEODORA

Which you privately believe is a foolish undertaking.

DOCTOR

Are you trying to open the empire up to attack? What game are you playing?

THEODORA

It's not a game.

JUSTINIAN

We will make an offer to our enemies.

BELISARIUS
What offer?

JUSTINIAN
We will cure their sick.

THEODORA
We are the Ostardi. We cure.

JUSTINIAN
It's our gift.

BELISARIUS
The Ostardi?

DOCTOR
(REALISATION) Oh no...

THEODORA
We were sealed in stone and exiled here by people who resented our power.

JUSTINIAN
Our influence.

DOCTOR
I'm not sure I agree with what they did, but I see their point. You're bargaining with your gift.

THEODORA
Only to stop conflict.

DOCTOR
Sometimes we need conflict. Often it's pointless and destructive, yes, but it's also how tyrants are defeated.

THEODORA
Don't waste time arguing with him. Stop the plague.

JUSTINIAN
I will generate an antiviral.

DOCTOR
No, stop! I have the code here – the one that released you. And I can use it to return you to stone.

THEODORA
You'd stop us saving thousands upon thousands from a painful death? Why?

DOCTOR
(BEAT) Because...

VICKI
Doctor?

DOCTOR
I don't know what to do.

THEODORA
Oh, Doctor. You hesitated.

JUSTINIAN
And now it's too late.

F/X GLITTERY SOUNDS IN THE AIR.

THEODORA
It's done.

DOCTOR
What? Just like that?

JUSTINIAN
Just like that.

DOCTOR
No. Wait! This is wrong! You have to undo what you did!

THEODORA
I'm afraid we've other matters to attend to. Come on, dearest.

JUSTINIAN
Of course.

F/X ZZZZIP! THEY VANISH.

DOCTOR
No!

BELISARIUS
Where did they go?

DOCTOR
Come back. Come back – you have to –

F/X DISQUIET AMONG THE CROWD IS RISING.

BELISARIUS
We need to settle this crowd or there'll be a riot.

DOCTOR
It doesn't matter. Not now...

BELISARIUS

It matters to me.

F/X BELISARIUS HEADS INTO CROWD.

DOCTOR

What have I done?

VICKI

Maybe – maybe it's not as bad as you think.

DOCTOR

It's not what I think that matters.

F/X MONK CLIMBS STEPS, EMERGES WITH SOPHIA.

MONK

(LAUGHS) Humility at last, Doctor!

DOCTOR

You. You set this up...

VICKI

What's this about, Sophia?

SOPHIA

Quintus told me what you did to him, Doctor.

DOCTOR

What I did?

MONK

Well – what you will do. Many people will die – including someone very, very dear to me. You told me it was my fault – but it all started because of you. You and your high-handed, holier-than-thou attitude – how dare you tell me I killed her?

DOCTOR

I've no idea what you're talking about.

MONK

It hasn't happened yet. And it won't ever. Not now.

VICKI

I don't understand – the Doctor didn't even do anything.

MONK

Exactly! Your Doctor would have done something. He wouldn't have faltered like this one did. He'd have put the Ostardi back in their boxes and left the plague to happen.

F/X SLOWLY, A HOWLING WIND EFFECT LIKE THE TIME LORDS' ARRIVAL IN THE WAR GAMES EPISODE 10 STARTS. THE SOUND OF THE CROWD BEGINS TO SLOW, LIKE A RECORD SLOWING DOWN.

DOCTOR

This was an impossible situation! There was no right choice!

MONK

Perhaps. But your former self chose differently. You haven't just changed the timelines – you've changed your own.

DOCTOR

You did this. You switched me with myself – you've been lurking, waiting for me to make a mistake...

MONK

And you've made one. And I'm afraid our people have noticed.

F/X THE WIND IS BUILDING.

VICKI

What's that noise?

DOCTOR

The Time Lords.

VICKI

What Lords?

DOCTOR

My own people. Most changes to the timeline, they turn a blind eye to – but when a Time Lord alters his or her own timeline, they know how dangerous that can be.

MONK

They'll take you out of time completely – your entire timeline will be suspended until they can investigate and repair any damage.

F/X DOCTOR IS FADING AWAY, A LA THE WAR CHIEF.

VICKI

Doctor! You're... you're fading away!

DOCTOR

(BECOMING FAINTER) It's the Time Lords, Vicki. Don't worry, I'll tell them what happened. I'll tell them what he's [done.]

F/X NOW HE'S GONE.

VICKI

Doctor! Where are you? – Doctor!!!

MONK

The Time Lords, Doctor? They'll know nothing. – Sophia!

SOPHIA

Yes, yes.

F/X WORLD AROUND THEM SEEMS TO STOP.

VICKI

Everything's... everything's stopped.

MONK

That's dear Sophia's doing. She's holding the Doctor's timeline open. Look – the gap in the world where the Doctor used to be. That greyish Doctor-shaped space, there.

VICKI

No...

MONK

And the wonder of this little device I've built –

F/X MONK OPERATES A DEVICE. WE HEAR ITS DISTINCTIVE HUM.

MONK

– is that it enables me to step into the Doctor's place.

VICKI

Into his place? But you can't!

MONK

It's already happening. I'm taking over his timeline. I'll be the Doctor, and he'll be nobody. Nobody at all. (LAUGHS)

VICKI

No!

END OF PART THREE

4: THE TWISTS OF FATE

(NO REPRISE)

71: EXT. RAVENNA ALLEY

F/X THE TARDIS LANDS IN THE SAME ALLEY AS AT THE START OF THE STORY. MONK, VICKI AND STEVEN DISEMBARK.

VICKI

Is this near where we were in Italy before, Doctor?

MONK

Yes, Vicki, but much later. The old Roman empire's on its last legs now, although don't tell them that. Isn't even based in Rome any more. This way, I think.

F/X THEY START WALKING.

STEVEN

What's so special about this place?

MONK

Used to be the capital city of the Western Roman Empire, Steven. In a couple of hours, an important man is going to barge into this city and take it over, and I'd like to meet him.

STEVEN

Nice town.

MONK

Yes. Shame it gets mostly forgotten after this siege.. maybe we should do something about that?

VICKI

Sounds good.

72: INT. PALACE

F/X JUSTINIAN IS HAVING AN AUDIENCE WITH SOPHIA.

SOPHIA

Thank you for granting me an audience, your majesty. Your palace is wonderful.

JUSTINIAN

Yes, we know. You're very welcome, er...

SOPHIA

Sophia.

JUSTINIAN

Of course.

SOPHIA

I came to Constantinople, because I feel... I lost something here.

JUSTINIAN

Oh dear. Someone's probably walked off with it by now.

SOPHIA

No no, it's more than that... It's hard to explain.

F/X THEODORA WALKS IN.

THEODORA

Oh, this one's pretty. Your taste is improving, my dear.

JUSTINIAN

It isn't like that, beloved.

THEODORA

Not yet, no. Don't mind me.

JUSTINIAN

Her name is Sophia.

THEODORA

Didn't you have a Sophia before?

JUSTINIAN

No. (BEAT) Or did I...? Anyway, do you mind? She was in the middle of telling me something.

THEODORA

No no, go ahead.

SOPHIA

I keep seeing this city in a dream. And in the dream, I'm with a man called Quintus. He tells me I'm special. That my father – he died when I was very young – was not of this world, and that's why... well, that's why I have the dreams I do.

THEODORA

What dreams?

SOPHIA

How things might have been. I'm also... I'm troubled by the future. Things have... gone awry. I feel a terrible world awaits us.

THEODORA

What a lovely story. Why does this have anything to do with us?

SOPHIA

I need to find him, I feel he's important to me. Do you know this Quintus? He seemed to know you.

JUSTINIAN

Sorry, my dear.

SOPHIA

I feel I may find him, or whatever it was I lost, at the imperial box at the Hippodrome – but they won't let me up there without your permission. Please?

JUSTINIAN

Can't see the harm in a charming person such as yourself visiting the place. Very well. You have our special permission to enter the imperial box.

SOPHIA

Thank you! (EXITS)

JUSTINIAN

There. All sorted out and no harm done.

THEODORA

So long as she doesn't touch anything.

73: INT. RAVENNA PALACE

F/X BELISARIUS HOLDING COURT AFTER HIS VICTORY.

BELISARIUS

What did I tell you, Procopius? No bloodshed. Cleanest victory you'll ever see, and here we are in the palace with our feet up before lunchtime.

PROCOPIUS

There is some... unhappiness at your rejection of their offer, Belisarius.

BELISARIUS

Only to be expected. Let them know I'm flattered, but my commitment to the restoration of the true Roman Empire is total and I hope they can respect this.

PROCOPIUS

Very well, I –

BELISARIUS

No, wait. I'll tell them. I'm in the mood for a speech.

PROCOPIUS

Before you do that – and I'm sorry if this darkens your mood, general – but there has been a message from the Emperor.

BELISARIUS

Oh.

PROCOPIUS

Recalling you to Constantinople.

BELISARIUS

What?!

PROCOPIUS

He believes the threat from Persia is escalating, and he intends to focus [his resources –]

BELISARIUS

He intends to get me out of Italy. I've taken back Rome and I have the respect of the people – he's afraid I might build my own power base here.

PROCOPIUS

That does seem to be the subtext. Shall I make preparations to depart?

BELISARIUS

Why?

PROCOPIUS

Well... he is the Emperor.

F/X MONK ENTERS, FOLLOWED BY STEVEN AND VICKI.

MONK

(FROM A DISTANCE) So what?

BELISARIUS

Exactly. (BEAT) Who are you?

PROCOPIUS

Oh yes – I met them out in the city. They're travellers.

MONK

(APPROACHING) I'm the Doctor, and this is Steven and Vicki.

VICKI

Good to meet you.

STEVEN

Nice work on the whole siege business.

BELISARIUS

I'm a little busy for meeting and greeting.

MONK

Yes, you've got the rest of Italy to conquer.

PROCOPIUS

Er... Doctor, [I think –]

BELISARIUS

Let him speak. (TO MONK) That was my intention, yes. But if I don't return, the Emperor [will –]

MONK

The Emperor can do nothing about it. Most of his army is here, along with his finest general.

BELISARIUS

Well, that's for others to say.

MONK

If you tell him the situation here is critical, and you can't abandon it now, and regretfully you have to stay and fight... well, if there really is a threat from Persia, the stupidest thing he could possibly do would be to send what forces he has here to attack you.

PROCOPIUS

He has proved himself capable of doing quite stupid things in the past.

BELISARIUS

Hush, Procopius. This... Doctor... is right. The Emperor knows he can't challenge me directly, that's why he's resorted to these tactics. If I refuse to return, he'll be stuck.

VICKI

He won't want to admit that you challenged his authority.

BELISARIUS

Exactly.

PROCOPIUS

But what about Persia?

MONK

Oh, we've just come from there. Haven't we?

STEVEN

Mm? Oh, yes. Nothing to worry about, it's all been blown out of proportion.

BELISARIUS

It's settled then – I shall stay and complete the conquest of Italy.

PROCOPIUS

I shall write to the Emperor and inform him of your decision, stressing that the situation in Italy demands it.

MONK

May I suggest that this message might carry more weight were it accompanied by eyewitness accounts of the situation in Italy?

BELISARIUS

Good thought.

MONK

My friends and I have business in Constantinople, as it happens, and would gladly seek an audience with the Emperor to aid your cause.

BELISARIUS

I'll make sure of it. Excellent!

74: EXT. RAVENNA PALACE (FEW MOMENTS LATER)

F/X FADE UP. MONK EXITS PALACE, FOLLOWED BY VICKI AND STEVEN.

STEVEN

That was easy.

MONK

It's all about picking the right man at the right moment, my boy.

VICKI

So if you hadn't talked to him, he'd have done as he was told?

MONK

Yes – the result being that he'd have had to conquer Italy all over again ten years later. Lots of people dying for no reason.

STEVEN

We've done well then.

MONK

Indeed we have. But now we need to smooth things over with the Emperor Justinian, make sure he accepts Belisarius' decision. If we're going to create a Roman Empire that never fell...

VICKI

Never fell?

MONK

Oh yes. I mean, all empires have to fall eventually, but imagine if we could make one last... maybe even into your era.

STEVEN

I still don't understand, Doctor – wouldn't that change my past, and Vicki's past?

VICKI

Yes. I'm always worried that one day, we'll sort of erase ourselves.

MONK

I've told you, while you're outside your proper place in the timestream, that can't happen. You'd become a temporal anomaly. I do think of these things, you know.

VICKI

Of course you do.

MONK

Come on – we're making the universe a better place!

75: EXT. HIPPODROME (IMPERIAL BOX)

F/X FADE UP. SOPHIA AND YAZID CLIMBING UP.

YAZID

... I'm a busy man, you know.

SOPHIA

I'm sorry. If you want to get back to work, I can manage up here.

YAZID

No no, I'm not leaving anyone unsupervised in the imperial box. I dunno why this ends up being my job though, bringing weird [foreign -]

SOPHIA

A hole.

YAZID

Hole? No, the structure's completely sound.

SOPHIA

Not in the structure, just... in the air.

YAZID

The air? You're insane.

SOPHIA

Like... a tear in space.

YAZID

But there's nothing there.

SOPHIA

There is! If I just reach out and - pull...!

F/X SOPHIA PULLS ON THE FABRIC OF SPACE-TIME. WE HEAR THE SAME SOUND AS WHEN THE DOCTOR VANISHED AND SOPHIA WAS HOLDING THE TIMELINE OPEN.

YAZID

A hole...! (BEAT) You've made a hole in the Emperor's box!

SOPHIA

Ssh. There's someone inside. (INTO HOLE) Who's there?

YAZID

I've had enough of this. You're leaving - now.

F/X YAZID GRABS SOPHIA'S WRIST, PULLS HER AWAY.

SOPHIA

No, there's someone in there! Someone who's gone missing from the world –

YAZID

You're the one who's gone missing from the world, sweetheart.

F/X DISTANT SOUND OF THE DOCTOR CRYING OUT AS HE TUMBLES TOWARDS THE HOLE, GETTING LOUDER.

DOCTOR

Look out belooooooooow-! [ETC]

SOPHIA

There he is! I can see him! Look out, he's falling –

F/X SUDDENLY, THE DOCTOR FALLS FROM THE HOLE AND LANDS, HEAVILY, ON THE STONE FLOOR.

DOCTOR

Oof!

YAZID

How... how did you do that?

SOPHIA

I don't know.

DOCTOR

(GETTING UP) Bit of a bump. Nonetheless – thank you, Sophia.

SOPHIA

How do you know my – Who are you?

DOCTOR

I'm the Doctor. Or, at least... I was. Hello, Yazid – I thought you were dead.

YAZID

(BACKING AWAY) A devil! A demon! A Persian demon!

F/X TERRIFIED, YAZID RUNS AWAY DOWN THE STEPS.

SOPHIA

(TO DOCTOR) I... I do know you. From my dreams.

DOCTOR

Good.

SOPHIA

Stay away from me –

F/X SOPHIA'S ABOUT TO RUN.

DOCTOR

No – wait! Sophia: I need your help.

SOPHIA

Quintus told me about you. How you killed millions of people – killed the person he cared about the most –

DOCTOR

I don't know what he was talking about. But I do know you can't trust him.

SOPHIA

Why are you here?

DOCTOR

Sophia, your dreams are true. It's this world that's fantasy. History has changed – you remember the world as it was meant to be.

SOPHIA

Yes. And now it's all gone wrong. I can feel the future... and every time I think of it, I feel sick with fear.

DOCTOR

That's what your friend Quintus did. I know him as the Monk. Look, I can't prove anything I say, but I'm asking you to help me put it right. Come on, let's get out of the Hippodrome.

CROSS TO:

76: EXT. CONSTANTINOPLE (FEW MOMENTS LATER)

F/X FADE UP. DOCTOR WALKING ALONG WITH SOPHIA.

DOCTOR

So the chariot race isn't for another six days?

SOPHIA

No.

DOCTOR

You've released me from my prison before I ever went in. Is that even possible? Maybe I shouldn't ask.

SOPHIA

In my dreams, Quintus told me I'm something called a Time Sensitive.

DOCTOR

Yes. You're only half human, Sophia. To judge from your abilities, the other half is from a species known as the Hetridon (*HETRYdon*).

SOPHIA

Hetridon.

DOCTOR

They have a rare talent – they know when the timelines have been altered. They can even open a hole in space-time if there's a weakness in the fabric – just like you can. Even the Time Lords can't do that – well, not without technology.

SOPHIA

Yes! And... I did it, didn't I? I let Quintus take your place. I'm so sorry.

DOCTOR

I'm not going to hold you responsible for actions taken in a redundant timeline that never happened.

SOPHIA

He told me you'd done awful things.

DOCTOR

The Monk? I think he might even believe that himself. Just before I vanished he was almost incoherent. – I wonder what happened to make him like that?

SOPHIA

Something that happened in the past?

DOCTOR

In my future, apparently. – Anyway: now, the Monk is me and he always has been. I'd hoped the Time Lords might realise what happened and pull me out, but the Monk seems to have covered his tracks too well. Nobody knows the timelines have changed. Except us. Thank you for finding me.

SOPHIA

Thank you. For the first time in my life, things make sense. You've been in my dreams several times – you had different faces, I thought it was just because that's what happens in dreams.

DOCTOR

No no, I have had different faces.

SOPHIA

The Monk took me to an island in the future – he was sure you were going to make a different choice, but your friend stopped you...

F/X FLASHBACK TO THE DEFECTORS: SCENE TBC.

SOPHIA

And then, on another world, with metal monsters –

F/X FLASHBACK TO LAST OF THE CYBERMEN: SCENE TBC.

SOPHIA

He was furious – said you always seemed to worm your way out of any situation, however impossible...

DOCTOR

No – don't tell me, this is all in my future. But then he brought you back here?

SOPHIA

Yes. The trap in Constantinople was the first one he set up – the others were sort of practice runs for this.

DOCTOR

We need to undo it.

SOPHIA

How?

DOCTOR

I don't know yet. But by the time the Monk gets here, I'll have thought of something.

77: EXT. PORT

F/X MONK DISEMBARKS FROM A BOAT, WITH VICKI AND STEVEN BEHIND.

MONK

... Of course, one day all this will be Istanbul, not Constantinople... (NB: NO HINT OF SINGING) ... but who knows, if all this works maybe it won't ever be Istanbul. Imagine that!

VICKI

(LOOKING AROUND) Wow!

STEVEN

It is pretty impressive.

MONK

You're seeing it arguably at its peak. A lot of it doesn't exist by your time.

VICKI

Maybe we could do something about that?

MONK

Indeed. Introduce the concept of a listed building fourteen hundred years early! The Hippodrome – now that would be a thing to preserve.

STEVEN

I'm glad you know what you're doing, Doctor. Imagine the mess if you didn't.

MONK

Yes, quite! Now, we've got work to do – I will seek an audience with the Emperor –

VICKI

Yes, of course you get to do that part.

MONK

And you two have an appointment at the Basilica Cistern. We shall meet back at the TARDIS.

STEVEN

On the ship?

MONK

No, I'll get the sailors to wheel it over to the Hippodrome. Go on – shoo, shoo!

F/X THEY SPLIT UP. FADE.

78: INT. PALACE (LATER)

F/X FADE UP. JUSTINIAN HOLDING COURT AGAIN.

JUSTINIAN

Ah yes, Doctor – you were mentioned in the missive from Belisarius. He was most complimentary.

MONK

I'm honoured, your majesty. And your general's courage and commitment to the restoration of the Empire is an inspiration.

JUSTINIAN

Of course it is.

MONK

I know he was gravely concerned that you might be displeased.

JUSTINIAN

Displeased?

MONK

Yes yes, by his failure to complete the campaign in Italy.

JUSTINIAN

Oh. No no, we understand that completing the conquest will take time, but the threat from Persia [is grave –]

MONK

Your majesty... have you considered that your spies in Persia may simply be trying to justify their own position, by exaggerating the threat?

JUSTINIAN

You think they would?

MONK

Your majesty, no effort from either side to conquer the other has met with success. Why would they waste their resources on a new, and no doubt vain, effort at this point?

JUSTINIAN

But if they do... I'm concerned about letting our army become entrenched in Italy. We could be caught entirely unprepared.

MONK

Aha. What if I told you I could furnish you with a gift that would enable you to bargain for peace with any enemy?

JUSTINIAN

(BEAT) I would very much be interested in that.

MONK

I thought you might.

79: INT. BASILICA CISTERN

F/X FADE UP. STEVEN AND VICKI ARE ROWING IN A BOAT.

VICKI

It's this column.

STEVEN

You're sure?

VICKI

The Doctor's instructions are very clear, it's this one right at the back and the one next to it.

STEVEN

Oh, yes.

VICKI

Yes, you see? You can see the heads at the bottom of the column.

STEVEN

So what are they?

VICKI

The Doctor says they're alien beings. Called the Ostardi.

STEVEN

They look like old lumps of stone.

VICKI

They were turned to stone to imprison them.

STEVEN

And we're going to set them free?

VICKI

It's all part of the Doctor's plan. We set them free, they'll go after the Emperor and Empress and, well... take them over.

STEVEN

Take them over completely?

VICKI

I assume so. The Doctor says the Emperor and Empress aren't nice people – this will change a lot of things for the better.

STEVEN

Well, OK – I trust the Doctor, so... better get on with it.

VICKI

Right... (CLEAR THROAT) Rynesh Qesh Ath Wentesh. Thyben Qesh Ash. (PAUSE) Did that sound right to you?

STEVEN

It sounded Welsh to me.

F/X RUMBLE BEGINS.

VICKI

Does that mean it's working?

STEVEN

I hope so.

VICKI

The Doctor didn't seem to think this would be dangerous...

STEVEN

I'm not sure the Doctor's definition of 'dangerous' is exactly the same as mine.

VICKI

Hold onto the boat!

F/X THE OSTARDI RISE UP FROM THE WATER.

STEVEN

Wow.

VICKI

OK. Er... go and... do your thing.

OSTARDI #1

You.

STEVEN

What about us?

OSTARDI #2

We are looking for you.

STEVEN

No no, it's not us... you're meant to go after the Emperor and Empress.

OSTARDI #1

(LOOMING CLOSER; LOUDER) No. You.

VICKI

Steven!!

80: INT. PALACE (CORRIDOR)

F/X MONK STILL SPEAKING TO JUSTINIAN – WALKING AND TALKING.

MONK

I firmly believe, you see, that the Roman Empire can once again be great.

JUSTINIAN

Are you saying it isn't great now?

MONK

(BEAT) I merely meant, your majesty, that all these divisions across Europe can be eradicated. The old Western Empire reunited with the East. Dare I say, the whole world might be yours.

JUSTINIAN

The whole world..

MONK

And other worlds beyond this one.

JUSTINIAN

Others?

MONK

Why not? Imagine Roman spaceships. Imagine how cool they'd look.

F/X COMMOTION, OFF.

JUSTINIAN

What's happening?

MONK

Ah, your majesty – don't panic. This is all part of my plan.

F/X THEODORA COMES RUNNING UP.

THEODORA

Beloved!

JUSTINIAN

Theodora – what is going on out there?

THEODORA

We are invaded by... by... I don't know what they are. Unearthly beings!

JUSTINIAN

What have you brought upon us?

MONK

Please please, be calm! I promised you power and the security of your city, and I present the means by [which –]

F/X THE ANTOIM FROM SCENE 1 HOVER AROUND THE CORNER.

ANTOIM #1

(OFF) The Doctor.

ANTOIM #2

(OFF) He said we would find you here.

MONK

Oh.

THEODORA

What's the matter?

MONK

These, er... aren't the unearthly beings I was expecting.

JUSTINIAN

What are they then?

MONK

Some... people... I may have annoyed. Bye.

F/X MONK STARTS TO RUN.

THEODORA

Where are you going?

JUSTINIAN

Doctor!

F/X THE ANTOIM ARE APPROACHING.

ANTOIM #1

Doctor!

ANTOIM #2

Doctor!

ANTOIM #1

It is the Doctor!

THEODORA

Look out!

F/X THE ANTOIM ZOOM PAST, JUSTINIAN AND THEODORA DUCK.

JUSTINIAN

Are you all right, beloved?

THEODORA

This isn't a dream, is it?

81: EXT. CONSTANTINOPLE (STREETS)

F/X MONK RUNS, BARGING INTO PEOPLE.

MONK

One side, please! Out of the way!

F/X MONK STOPS.

MONK

(TO HIMSELF) What?! Where is it? I distinctly told them to leave the TARDIS here. (RAISES VOICE) Has anyone seen a box? A blue box with –

STEVEN

(OFF) Doctor!

VICKI

(OFF) Over here! Quickly!

MONK

Aha!

F/X MONK RUSHES OVER TO THE TARDIS.

MONK

Steven. Vicki. Well done.

VICKI

What's happening, Doctor?

MONK

Small change of plan. We're leaving.

F/X MONK OPENS TARDIS DOOR.

STEVEN

Leaving?!

MONK

Inside!

F/X THEY BUNDLE INTO THE TARDIS. CONTINUES INTO:

82: INT. TARDIS [CONTINUOUS]

F/X MONK GOES OVER TO THE CONTROLS.

STEVEN

Why are we leaving in such a hurry?

MONK

Remember the Antoin? How they chased us off their planet and swore they'd track us down and how I said they'd never track us down because they were a stupid species and that in any case they lived half a galaxy away from Earth and four thousand years into the future.

STEVEN

Ye-es.

MONK

Well, they've tracked us down.

VICKI

What?! How?

MONK

They must have got lucky. Time to go.

VICKI

Hang on! We can't just leave them on Earth, Doctor!

MONK

Oh, Earth will be fine, it's me they want. Probably. So! Let's get out of —

F/X MONK OPERATES DEMATERIALISATION CONTROL, BUT THE ONLY RESPONSE IS A 'THUNK'.

MONK

Oh.

STEVEN

What's the matter?

F/X MONK KEEPS WORKING AT THE CONTROLS.

MONK

The TARDIS won't take off.

VICKI

Oh. Perhaps it's because I removed this?

MONK

But... that's the dematerialisation circuit. Give me —

F/X MONK TRIES TO GRAB IT FROM VICKI'S HAND.

VICKI

Don't snatch, it's not polite.

MONK

Why did you remove that, you meddling –

F/X DOCTOR ENTERS CONTROL ROOM FROM INTERIOR DOOR.

DOCTOR

Because I told her to.

MONK

You... no, you don't exist. I had you wiped from time and space itself! I've been living your life for seven hundred and fifty – You don't... you can't exist!

DOCTOR

And yet here I am.

MONK

Wh... where did you come from?

DOCTOR

Steven and Vicki let me in.

MONK

But... they shouldn't even know who you are. They don't remember you – I'm the Doctor as far as they're concerned.

DOCTOR

Strictly speaking, they're not Steven and Vicki, you see.

STEVEN

We are the Ostardi.

MONK

But... no no, you were supposed to take control of Justinian and Theodora, not the Doctor's companions.

DOCTOR

I might have woken the Ostardi up a little early and had a little chat with them, then put them back to sleep.

VICKI

We came here to cure.

STEVEN

But the Doctor told us you used us.

VICKI

Used us to change things for your own gain.

MONK

No! It wasn't like that – I wanted only to... to...

F/X KNOCK AT TARDIS DOOR.

DOCTOR

Aha. Time for another blast from the past – or do I mean the future?

F/X TARDIS DOOR OPENS, SOPHIA ENTERS.

SOPHIA

Hello. Remember me?

MONK

Sophia. Close the door! They're out there!

DOCTOR

Are they out there, Sophia?

SOPHIA

They're looking for him now. It won't be long.

MONK

We've got to get away –

DOCTOR

We don't have to. You have to. It's you they want, because apparently you're the Doctor.

MONK

How did you escape? (TO SOPHIA) Sophia? Did you do this?

SOPHIA

I remembered you. I came looking for you.

DOCTOR

But she didn't find you, she found me. It never occurred to you that she might care what had happened to you, did it?

MONK

I'm better at being you than you ever were. I'm building a better Earth, a better galaxy, a better universe!

DOCTOR

And I suppose you've convinced Steven and Vicki and all my other friends to help you, convinced them your way is fine?

SOPHIA

I've seen the future you're creating. It's a disaster.

MONK

Then I'll go back again and fix it. Or not! Whatever I do, whatever I change, the universe will eventually dissipate into nothingness anyway, so it literally makes no difference.

DOCTOR

The difference is the countless lives of the people who have to live here in the meantime.

MONK

There's nothing you can do, Doctor. Sophia can't pull me out, there's no weak point in the timelines here, so.. what, are you going threaten to kill me? If you do that, you'll never get back.

DOCTOR

No, I'm not going to threaten to kill you.

MONK

Good.

DOCTOR

I'm just going to throw you out of the TARDIS and leave you at the mercy of the Antoim.

MONK

What?

DOCTOR

Steven? Vicki? Sophia? Could you help?

STEVEN

Of course.

F/X THEY STEP FORWARD AND GRAB HIM.

MONK

No! Let me go...!

CONTINUES INTO:

83: EXT. CONSTANTINOPLE (STREET) [CONTINUOUS]

F/X MONK SHOVED OUT OF TARDIS BY DOCTOR, STEVEN, VICKI AND SOPHIA.

MONK

No! Doctor – don't do this!

DOCTOR

I thought you were the Doctor.

MONK

But the Antoim are coming. They'll find me.

DOCTOR

I hope so, it was me who told them where you were.

MONK

What?

DOCTOR

Yes, they were desperate for revenge on the Doctor, so I found your TARDIS – which was just hanging around abandoned in a corner of the city, another little temporal anomaly – and nipped over to their planet, and told them where they could find a wormhole that would take them straight to you.

ANTOIM #1

(DISTANT - AT FAR END OF ALLEYWAY) The blue capsule!

ANTOIM #2

(DITTO) It is the Doctor!

DOCTOR

Here they come. – Now, I'm sure you wouldn't have hijacked my timeline without an escape route back to your own, just in case you got out of your depth.

MONK

I... maybe.

DOCTOR

In fact, I'd be willing to bet you've got your finger on it right now in your pocket.

MONK

Maybe.

DOCTOR

So when you leave my timeline, with Sophia's help, I'll be able to return to it.

MONK

And the Antoim will kill you instead.

DOCTOR

I'll think of something.

MONK

Tell me how to beat them!

DOCTOR

No.

MONK

Tell me – or you'll never get your life back!

DOCTOR

No.

F/X ANTOIM ARE HERE.

ANTOIM #1

The Doctor!

ANTOIM #2

It is the Doctor!

ANTOIM #1

Destroy him!

MONK

(TO DOCTOR) All right! You win! You be the Doctor, if you love yourself so much!

F/X MONK ACTIVATES THE DEVICE HE USED BEFORE, WE HEAR THE SAME NOISE.

DOCTOR

Sophia?

SOPHIA

It's open, Doctor! You may exchange timelines.

DOCTOR

Thank you. Now!

F/X ZZZZZZIP! AS THE MONK AND THE DOCTOR SWAP PLACES IN THE TIMELINE.

MONK:

Is that... it?

DOCTOR:

Now you're me, and I'm you. Or rather, I'm me, and you're you. Oh... never mind.

ANTOIM #1

You are the Doctor.

DOCTOR

Yes. Yes I am.

ANTOIM #2

You will be destroyed.

DOCTOR

Before you do that, Antoim – a few decades after we last met, I had a sudden thought. The world where we encountered you – I remember detecting some odd energy fluctuations there. In fact we had trouble landing the TARDIS. I realised what was causing it – dimensional instability. And that's why I rigged up the device that Sophia here is holding, using this dimensional unit.

MONK

You stole that from my TARDIS.

SOPHIA

Yes, we did. Now, Doctor?

DOCTOR

If you don't mind.

F/X SOPHIA THROWS A SWITCH. THE ANTOIM RAPIDLY SHRINK, THEIR NEXT LINE FADING QUICKLY.

ANTOIM #1

No! We cannot be defeated so...

MONK

Where did they go?

DOCTOR

The Antoim were an intelligent virus. The dimensional instability they passed through made them expand, thousands of times larger than they should have been. I've reversed the effect – they're still there, you just can't see them.

STEVEN

We've assessed the disease.

VICKI

The antibody has been generated.

STEVEN

Releasing it now.

F/X TWINKLE AS THE ANTIBODY APPEARS IN THE AIR — AS IN FINAL SCENE OF EP 3.

SOPHIA

Is that it? You've dealt with them?

DOCTOR

Yes. Well done, everybody.

MONK

Yes, good work, I'll be off now then —

STEVEN

No.

VICKI

No.

STEVEN

We don't appreciate being manipulated.

MONK

(BLUSTERING) Manipulated? Never! I gave you a chance to cure disease! Isn't that what you live for?

VICKI

Not at the Doctor's expense.

STEVEN

We'll return your friends to you, Doctor.

F/X THE OSTARDI DETACH THEMSELVES FROM STEVEN AND VICKI, THE STONE HEADS NOW REAPPEARING.

STEVEN & VICKI

(GASP, RELEASED)

OSTARDI #1

We are going home.

OSTARDI #2

And taking you with us... "Monk".

MONK

No — no!

OSTARDI #1

Put him in an isolation bubble.

OSTARDI #2

Yes.

F/X 'POP' AS BUBBLE IS GENERATED AROUND THE MONK.

MONK

(MUFFLED) No! I'll get free, Doctor. And then I'll come back, and I'll undo all this!

OSTARDI #1

Goodbye, Doctor.

MONK

(MUFFLED) I've done it before! You don't know how many times. If at first you don't succeed, try try ag-

F/X THE OSTARDI VANISH, TAKING THE MONK WITH THEM.

SOPHIA

They've gone.

DOCTOR

Yes. And I hope they behave themselves this time. I gave them a strict talking-to about meddling in the affairs of other species.

VICKI

Doctor?

DOCTOR

Vicki! Good to have you back.

STEVEN

Back? We haven't been anywhere.

DOCTOR

And you know it's me, then?

STEVEN

Yes, yes - we established this at the start. You look different but you are the Doctor.

DOCTOR

Good. Now. We may have a little tidying-up to do. Make sure the Monk hasn't done any [permanent -]

STEVEN

The Monk?

VICKI

The Monk Monk? He was here?

DOCTOR

Yes. Although possibly not, now. Maybe he was never here. These things are always messy.

STEVEN

What things? I've no idea what's been happening.

SOPHIA

Doctor – my sense of the future – it seems better now.

DOCTOR

Good. Well that's something at least.

SOPHIA

Better, but not perfect.

DOCTOR

Oh, it's never perfect. Nor should it be. Perfection's rather overrated if you ask me. (BEAT) So what now? You can come with us if you like.

SOPHIA

Thank you, but... no.

DOCTOR

Are you sure? It's going to be hard here, you know. The plague will come, if history's back on the right lines. And Justinian's reign becomes more and more troubled.

SOPHIA

I know. But I feel like I can help.

DOCTOR

I think so too. So nice to have met you, Sophia. Goodbye.

STEVEN

Are we leaving?

DOCTOR

Yes, why?

VICKI

We only just got here.

F/X THEY TROOP INTO THE TARDIS, THE DOOR CLOSES.

84: INT. TARDIS [CONTINUOUS]

F/X DOCTOR ENGAGES THE CONTROLS.

STEVEN

What is going on, Doctor?

VICKI

Yes. I wanted to see Constantinople.

DOCTOR

You will. I'm afraid we need to go through all this again and make sure the Monk's interference hasn't changed anything, make sure Belisarius comes back from Ravenna like he should, so we need to head back there.

STEVEN

Back where?

DOCTOR

Ravenna.

VICKI

Where's Ravenna? I've never been to Ravenna before.

STEVEN

Me neither. In fact I've never even heard of it before.

DOCTOR

And you don't remember Procopius? Belisarius?

VICKI

Should we? And who was that woman out there?

DOCTOR

Good grief. None of it ever happened. Which means when we land there again... we'll never have been there before.

VICKI

Steven, look – the Doctor!

STEVEN

He's fading away!

DOCTOR

(FADING AWAY) Oh. Yes. Being drawn back to my own place in the timestream. Don't worry – Steven, Vicki. Your Doctor will return, and... everything will be as it should have been. I might seem a little different, but deep down... I'm always the same...

F/X AND HE'S GONE.

85: INT. CONSTANTINOPLE PALACE

F/X SLOW FADE UP. PROCOPIUS IS REREADING WHAT HE HAS JUST WRITTEN.

PROCOPIUS

The time has come in my history to relate the episode of Belisarius' retreat from Ravenna. My general was not minded to return as Justinian requested, but he was convinced by the words of an aged and white-haired traveller, the Doctor, who appealed to Belisarius' vanity. The Doctor and his young companion accompanied us upon our return to Constantinople, seeking another of their party from whom they had become separated, and on their arrival embroiled me in a most peculiar scheme to replace the Medusa heads at the bases of two columns in the Basilica Cistern – which had, unaccountably, vanished – with two identical heads. (HE PUTS QUILL TO PARCHMENT, TO CONTINUE HIS TALE. SLOWLY:) This involved deceiving Justinian in the most elaborate – (BREAKS OFF WRITING) Oh, no, no, no...

F/X PARCHMENT IS TORN.

PROCOPIUS

I think perhaps some histories should remain... secret.

DOCTOR WHO MUSIC.

END